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MARKING TIME IN ZAIRE — A Rwandan refugee in line with others Wednesday at a feeding station near Bukavu, Zaire. UN officials and jurists on a special commission said efforts to monitor rights abuses in Rwanda and bring to justice those involved in massacres were understaffed and underfunded. Page 4.

In Russia, a Breakdown on the Road to Capitalism

By Alessandra Stanley
New York Times Service

NEREKHTA, Russia — The urban veneer of this small industrial town is melting away.

Chickens and goats roam the courtyards of huge Soviet apartment complexes, and cucumber and potato plants, not begonias, sprout out of window boxes and kitchen gardens. Nerekhta's factory workers have not been paid for months, and many are turning into clodish subsistence farmers.

Survival tips, instead of gossip, now dominate the town's small talk. "We grow our own food and we borrow from my mother's pension check," is how Galina Razzhivina, 39, a bookkeeper, described her household ac-

counts. She and her husband, Mikhail, 36, work at the largest local plant, known simply as the Mechanical Factory, and neither has received a salary since May.

Nerekhta is as good a symbol of Russia's troubled road to capitalism as any. All across the country, people are working in plants and not getting paid. In July, the amount of wages withheld reached \$1 billion, according to the government's most recent statistics.

But the employees keep coming to work because factories, even dormant ones, still provide many social services the government cannot afford to duplicate: subsidized apartments, health care, gardening plots, discount food, day-care centers and sports installations.

Nerekhta, population 29,000, is 275 kilometers (170

miles) northeast of Moscow. It is not just a one-factory town, it is a monument to Soviet feudalism.

Once a defense plant that produced military spare parts, the Mechanical Factory at its peak employed, housed and helped feed 5,000 people, more than a third of the town's working population. But 2,000 jobs have been cut in the last two years. The assembly lines now churn out kitchen cabinets, bicycle parts and modernistic copper chandeliers.

The Mechanical Factory shut down for the month of August, but kept open its summer camp, cultural center, sports installations and prophylactic, a workers' rest

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shuttlecock

Moscow Seizes More Nuclear Material

Compiled by Our Staff From Dispatches

MOSCOW — Russian authorities arrested two unemployed men and seized 21 pounds of industrial-grade uranium that had been stolen from a secret nuclear contractor, officials said Wednesday.

A spokesman for the federal counterintelligence service said the stolen material was uranium-238 and was not weapons-grade quality. Uranium-238 is available for official purchase in Russia for \$45 to \$50 a pound, according to nuclear authorities.

It was the latest in a series of cases involving the theft of nuclear materials from Russian plants and research facilities. Russian authorities have conceded

that security is often lax, but deny that any weapons-grade material has been stolen.

Russian authorities have seized four shipments of contraband radioactive material since May, including small amounts of weapons-grade uranium and plutonium, and have suggested that the material came from Russia. This week, Russia and Germany agreed to cooperate to combat nuclear smuggling.

In the latest case, counterintelligence agents backed by the police arrested the two men and seized their stolen material Sunday, according to the counterintelligence service spokesman, Vladimir Tomaevsky.

It was not immediately clear whether the suspects, whose names were not revealed,

had received any inside assistance and what they had planned to do with the uranium-238.

According to the state concern Rosenergoatom, the uranium-238 is used to produce fuel for nuclear power plants, and is being openly sold by export organizations like Technosabexport.

Rosenergoatom employees told the Tass news agency that the amount of stolen uranium-238 was very small compared with the approximately 330 pounds needed to produce one fuel cassette.

Russian criminals, however, have been stealing and smuggling virtually anything radioactive.

Uranium-238, the most common isotope

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An Islamic Struggle for Saudi Arabia's Soul

By Nora Boustanty
Washington Post Service

RIYADH, Saudi Arabia is the scene of an undeclared battle between those who want to bring the kingdom into the modern age and those who fear that doing so could harm its cultural identity and religious heritage. Each side invokes its special Islamic character, and the Gulf War, during which American and other foreign forces were based in Saudi Arabia, brought the conflict into sharper focus.

Since then, self-proclaimed reformers seeking a bigger say in how the monarchy conducts foreign policy and spends oil income have found in religion an unchallengeable cover for what are essentially political demands for power and participation.

At the same time, as religious militancy sweeps across the Arab world, Saudi Arabia has become more self-righteous about its orthodoxy while holding its society in a straitjacket of public morality. After female American soldiers came to help defend the kingdom four years ago, local religious sensitivities intensified, prompting a backlash by secularists. As a result, strict rules were temporarily lifted, but they have now been reimposed.

Saudi officials, who have observed the

tremors of zealous in Algeria and Egypt

erupt into political opposition, note that

this country can hardly be outdone in the

realm of religious fundamentalism. Its rulers and most of its conservative population

practice a rigorous form of Sunni Islam

known as Wahabism.

"If you look at what people are asking for, they want what is normal in Saudi

Arabia," Prince Bandar bin Sultan, the Saudi ambassador to Washington, said in a recent interview.

"This is a conservative country by its own construction," echoed a Saudi cabinet minister. "Fundamentalists in other countries are trying to reinstate what was lost and what Saudi have been doing for years."

In the 1930s, King Abdulaziz ibn Saud forged what is today Saudi Arabia, drawing on the teachings of Mohammed Abdul Wahhab, an 18th-century preacher who gave his name. Since the founding of Saudi Arabia in 1932, the religious establishment has been accorded special consideration.

Now the Council of Ulemas, made up of Islamic scholars, and the Islamic Judicial

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After Bullets and Ballots, Sri Lanka's Shot at Peace

By John F. Burns
New York Times Service

COLOMBO, Sri Lanka — After 11 years of war with the Tamil Tiger guerrillas that have blighted this once idyllic nation with assassinations, dead-of-night "disappearances" and mass graves, Sri Lanka has begun to hope that the worst of its nightmare may be over.

Many in this tropical Indian Ocean island remain wary. But after at least 35,000 deaths in the conflict, Sri Lankans hoped the election last week of a new prime minister was a watershed in a war that had settled into a seemingly hopeless stalemate.

The new leader, Chandrika Bandaranaike Kumara-

tunga, was widowed as a result of the Tiger conflict, said ending the war was her first priority, along with rooting out the official corruption and political violence that have become endemic along with it.

Mrs. Kumaranatunga, 49, said she favored a settlement to the war "as soon as possible" and would make new proposals to the rebels within three months. She said she did not believe the rebels' reclusive leader, Velupillai Prabhakaran, who has a reputation for ruthlessness and intractability, was inflexibly committed to an independent Tamil state in Sri Lanka, as he has suggested in the few interviews he has given.

"I don't believe it's final simply because I don't believe

that any political position is permanent," Mrs. Kumaranatunga said. "Especially because we have seen what has been possible in South Africa and between the Israelis and Palestinians, we continue to hope."

Mrs. Kumaranatunga knows firsthand how the war has devastated lives in this country of 17 million people. She was at home with her two small children in 1988 when a member of a Sinhalese terrorist group opposed to the Tamil rebels approached her husband, Vijaya Kumaranatunga, one of Sri Lanka's most popular film stars before he became a politician, in the driveway of their Colombo home. The attacker fired several times into Mr. Kumaranatunga's face, killing him

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On Wall Street, Weak Data Spark a Rally

Compiled by Our Staff From Dispatches

NEW YORK — U.S. stock prices surged Wednesday after a drop in orders for durable goods in July convinced investors that the Federal Reserve Board would not be forced to raise interest rates for a sixth time this year.

Stocks advanced in concert with bonds and the dollar after the Commerce Department said orders to U.S. factories for big-ticket items declined by 4.2 percent in July, the biggest drop in two and a half years.

Many economists had been forecasting a moderate gain of around 0.3 percent. The Dow Jones industrial averaged 3,846.73 points, up 70.90, its highest point since March 23. Gaining issues outnumbered losing ones by a 5-to-3 ratio on the New York Stock Exchange. Trading was active, with 309.78 million shares changing hands.

"There is a developing consensus that rates are not going to go much higher and that the Fed's tightening moves have been sufficient to control whatever inflation may be out there," said Joseph McAlpin, chief investment officer at Dillim Read & Co.

The weak durable goods data calmed the bond market's fears about inflation and stabilized the dollar. (Page 10)

The price of the benchmark 30-year

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U.S. Readies Guantánamo For Unabated Cuban Tide

'Absolutely No Way' For Refugees to Reach America, Official Says

Compiled by Our Staff From Dispatches

WASHINGTON — Frustrated by a flood of refugees from Cuba that shows no signs of abating, the Clinton administration moved Wednesday to expand its camp at Guantánamo Bay Naval Base greatly to handle at least 40,000 refugees.

Alarmed that more and more Cubans are trying to reach the United States in makeshift rafts and boats despite recent American efforts to dissuade them, senior officials stressed that refugees picked up at sea would stay at Guantánamo indefinitely until Cuba repatriated them.

"They will absolutely, in no way, have any way of coming to the United States," said the White House press secretary, Dee Myers. Administration officials repeated that only those who apply through legal means inside Cuba would be allowed into the United States.

At a White House briefing, Defense Secretary William J. Perry, Attorney General Janet Reno and Undersecretary of State Peter Tarnoff outlined a bleak future for Cubans who risk their lives trying to make the 90-mile (145-kilometer) crossing to Florida.

They said they were reviewing immigration procedures with an eye toward encouraging Cubans to apply for U.S. visas in Cuba, but had not taken the step of loosening immigration rules to expand the number of Cubans that could be let in.

Mr. Perry said the United States would immediately expand the refugee camp at Guantánamo to handle the flood streaming out of Cuba in the largest numbers since the 1980 Mariel boatlift, when 125,000 left.

Thousands of Haitian refugees, also intercepted at sea while trying to get to the United States, are already at Guantánamo and have clashed with U.S. military police over living conditions there.

Mr. Perry said that as of Wednesday there were facilities at Guantánamo for more than 23,000 refugees. Haitian and Cuban, adding, "By the end of the week, we will have facilities for 30,000 and by the end of next week, facilities for 40,000."

He said there was "significant capacity" for even more and Washington "will expand beyond that if necessary."

Asked how long Washington was prepared to detain Cubans seeking U.S. asylum at Guantánamo under the policy established by President Bill Clinton last week, Mr. Perry said, "We are preparing to maintain that base indefinitely if necessary until such time as the people can be repatriated to Cuba."

Mr. Perry acknowledged that the administration had failed to convince Cubans so far. "We have a flood of boat people on the way to Guantánamo now," he said.

The officials said the United States was also pressing its effort to get Latin American and Caribbean nations to take in some of the Cubans. A parallel "safe haven" effort for Haitians has made little progress.

As for news reports that the White House was considering taking some Cubans from Guantánamo — a military outpost held by lease and force of arms on Cuba's southeastern shore — to detention in the United States, Ms. Reno said,

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Kiosk



Enrique Marcano/Reuters

BANNED AGAIN — The Argentine soccer star Diego Maradona has been suspended from the sport for 15 months for taking performance-enhancing drugs at the World Cup in the United States in July. Page 18.

Gunmen Kill 2 in Moroccan Hotel

RABAT, Morocco (Reuters) — Gunmen shot and killed two Spanish tourists in a luxury hotel Wednesday when they sprayed the lobby with automatic weapons fire before making off with cash, the official Moroccan press agency reported.

The two gunmen, who wounded a

third Spaniard and a Moroccan woman,

took 10,000 dirhams (\$1,130) after trying

to overpower the cashier of the

Atlas-Asfi Hotel in the southern city of

Marrakesh, the press agency said.

The gunmen then commandedeer

a car and took its owner hostage. The

woman was later released.

The woman was later released.

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Paris Ceremonies Spotlight Gallery of Aging Survivors

By Joseph Fitchett
International Herald Tribune

PARIS — Who Prime Minister Edouard Balladur and Paris Mayor Jacques Chirac stand side by side at ceremonies commemorating the French capital's liberation 50 years ago, the solemnity of the moment will eclipse their rivalry as the leading conservative contenders in the presidential election next year.

But most French political leaders promote it to this week's events are probably marking their last hurrah in politics. Like the American veterans who participated in the Normandy landings in 1944, the commemoration this year finds the politicians at retirement age or beyond.

Among the famous living witnesses, Jacques Chaban-Delmas, 79, still using the name which he took in the underground, is approaching the end of an almost uninterrupted postwar reign as mayor of Bordeaux. As a 25-year-old Gaullist general, Mr. Chaban-Delmas flew to London to warn the Allies of an imminent Communist-led insurrection in Paris, then parachuted back into France in time to help seize control of the capital on behalf of General Charles de Gaulle.

Mr. Chaban-Delmas, now in failing health, will probably be succeeded in Bordeaux, a major conservative power base, by Alain Juppé, 49, currently France's foreign minister and a young pillar of the Gaullist party founded before he was born.

Old age has claimed many other individuals who played key roles in those dramatic hours in Paris. Ernst von Bressendorf, 76, who died Friday of cancer, was the officer in charge of communications at the Paris headquarters of the German occupation on Aug. 23, 1944, when he saw an incoming telegram from Hitler ordering the destruction of the city.

Appalled, Mr. von Bressendorf stalled, holding up delivery of the message until the next day when it was too late for the Germans to do much damage, a factor that helped General Dietrich von Choltitz decide to ignore the Führer's instructions and spare Paris.

Some of the most tenacious survivors of the war are veterans of the French Resistance, some of them Communists, for whom the liberation of Paris was a crowning moment in their long underground campaign.

Women, who were outliers in the ranks of the Resistance, especially as couriers, have received attention in the Paris ceremonies, all the more deserved for being overdue in many cases.

The head of France's organization of former Resistance fighters was for years until her death a woman, Marie-Madeleine Fourcade, who died in

1989 at age 80. Despite her prominence, the rank-and-file of women in the underground have benefited only slightly from the advancement in business and government that has often been the lot of men whose war record opened doors in the French establishment.

The passing of a generation also marks the end of a period in which wartime fighters have dominated historical discussions of this complex period, often seeking to block fresh research liable to sully the image of the Resistance as almost a chivalric saga of modern French knighthood.

Even President François Mitterrand, 77, has never managed to quiet doubts about his wartime role. Successfully escaping from a German prisoner-of-war camp after several attempts, Mr. Mitterrand joined the Vichy government as the official handling veterans' affairs and was decorated by Marshal Pétain for his services.

But Mr. Mitterrand has explained that he was acting on orders from the underground to infiltrate the Vichy ranks and use his authority to help the Resistance.

The most important moment of Mr. Mitterrand's war was a trip to meet General de Gaulle, a visit that soured instantly when De Gaulle learned that the French politician had traveled in a plane supplied by Britain. De Gaulle suspected the British government of wanting to manipulate France's political moderates.

Both men came away from their encounter as political foes for the rest of their lives.

In the Gaullist system, an unspoken ally was the French Communist Party, whose extremism helped drive voters to the right. As De Gaulle explained to André Malraux, his culture minister: "There is nothing between us and the Communists," meaning that French voters were left to choose between centrist parties that had emerged from the war almost fatally weakened.

For the Gaullists, now led by Mr. Chirac, there were many emotional links to the Communists because the two parties had fought side by side the Resistance.

The man who initiated the Paris uprising was a Communist, Henri Tanguy, now known by his nom de guerre as Rol-Tanguy.

Mr. Rol-Tanguy, 86, has always been a man with strong bonds to the left wing of the Gaullist party, which shared many of the Communist ideals of social change and much of their anti-imperialist ideology, including strong anti-American impulses.

For De Gaulle, this composite fit his perceptions of the postwar world. With France safely protected by U.S. power, Paris was free to



In the effort to prepare France for the surrender of German forces, top (Aug. 24, 1944), a young American at the Office of War Information in London, John Peter, drew a poster signaling the 'Dawn of a New Day.'

pursue policies of national interest even when they were at odds with its allies. The Kremlin's delight at this display of Gaullist independence meant that Moscow always ordered the French Communists to do whatever De Gaulle needed.

Those turbulent days in 1944, so bright after the gray occupation, brought out vividly the characters and movements typifying France's history as a tug-of-war between

revolution and dictators, utopianism and military-style totalitarianism.

Now fading into political folk memories, that era is having a last word with the Paris commemorations. As a Resistance veteran told an impudent academic interviewer during a radio broadcast this week: "Just be patient a little longer, then you can tell our story the way you want it to be. But not yet."

When the Capital Became War Zone

Reuters

PARIS — Parisians looked back on Wednesday with pride and nostalgia to a time 50 years ago when they took to the streets with hunting rifles and gasoline bombs to liberate the French capital from its Nazi occupiers.

For roughly 10 days beginning on about Aug. 15, 1944, such Parisian landmarks as Notre Dame Cathedral, the Latin Quarter and the city hall plaza were transformed into guerrilla war zones as police officers and lightly armed civilians took on German troops and tanks.

By the time General Philippe Leclerc arrived at the city gates at 7:45 A.M. on Aug. 25, the street fighting had largely died down and the Germans had all been taken up.

For this reason, while France earlier this year extended warm thanks to Allied veterans for the D-Day Normandy landings, it has been taking all the credit for freeing Paris.

Allied commanders were not eager to free Paris, believing that taking the capital street by street would cost many lives and distract from the more pressing task of pursuing the fleeing German forces.

In addition, capturing the capital would oblige the Allies to take on the task of feeding Paris, diverting foodstuffs from the soldiers.

But de Gaulle convinced them that the Germans' growing weakness and the Resistance's successes dictated an Allied move on Paris itself.

They continue on Friday with a parade recalling de Gaulle's triumphant return to Paris from London.

Hundreds of thousands of people lined the Champs-Ely-

sees on Aug. 26, 1944, to see him pass by. A key goal of his march was to kill support for the Communists, who had done much of the initial organizing of the Resistance within Paris and had begun setting up their own postwar governmental structures.

De Gaulle, who opposed a big role for the Communists, grabbed the spotlight for himself and then turned his back on the Resistance fighters. Instead, he appealed to all political factions to unite in the new government.

It was de Gaulle who had suggested General Leclerc's role to the Allied commanders, feeling that a French liberating army would restore the honor that had been taken from France by the Nazis.

Allied commanders were not eager to free Paris, believing that taking the capital street by street would cost many lives and distract from the more pressing task of pursuing the fleeing German forces.

A three-day celebration began on Wednesday with parades and speeches as well as bunting for those who fell in the fighting. The ceremonies go into high gear on Thursday with fireworks, a parade and a gala ball at the Place de la Concorde.

They continue on Friday with a parade recalling de Gaulle's triumphant return to Paris from London.

Hundreds of thousands of people lined the Champs-Ely-

WORLD BRIEFS

Peacekeepers Pass Bosnian Blockade

ZAGREB, Croatia (Reuters) — A convoy of French UN peacekeepers, blocked for two days by Muslim refugees stranded in a demilitarized zone in Croatia, resumed its journey Wednesday, the United Nations said.

The 22-vehicle convoy, taking 280 French troops to Zagreb, managed to get past the refugees without incident early in the morning. "Most of the refugees were asleep because they were very tired," Major Jean-François Philippe said.

The convoy was blocked on Monday by up to 3,000 refugees from the Bihac enclave in northwestern Bosnia, an area occupied by rebel Muslim forces. Major Philippe said the refugees accused the peacekeepers of having helped the rebel forces overrun their territory, a charge he denied.

Khmer Rouge Link Hostages to Aid

PHNOM PENH (Reuters) — Khmer Rouge guerrillas have dropped ransom demands for the release of three Westerners but instead want Western countries to halt military aid to the Cambodian government, the prime minister said Wednesday.

The Khmer Rouge said they don't demand a ransom anymore, but they demand that powerful countries stop providing aid," said the prime minister, Prince Norodom Ranariddh. He said he was less optimistic of an early release of the hostages now that the guerrillas had linked them to a political agenda.

The Khmer Rouge had earlier demanded \$150,000 for the release of the three hostages, a Briton a Frenchman and an Australian. They were seized on July 26.

French TV Stations Face a Rare Suit

PARIS (AFP) — For the first time, France's broadcasting network said Wednesday that it would seek fines against the three main television networks for giving the government too much air time.

The agency, known as the CSA, said it would file suit with the Council of State, France's highest administrative court, against the privately owned TF1 and the state-owned France 2 and France 3 stations. It said it would seek fines of several million francs against each station. A million francs is about \$200,000.

Under French law, television stations must share air time equally between governing and opposing parties. The nine-member CSA said that in the first three months of this year, it had observed that news programs on the networks gave the lion's share of coverage to the government when it came to appearances by politicians.

Jewish Relics Given Back to Hungary

BUCHAREST (AP) — Romanian policemen returned more than \$200 million worth of stolen Jewish relics and artworks to Hungarian Jewish officials at a ceremony Wednesday in Bucharest.

The head of Romania's police force, Major General Ion Pintescu, said nearly all the religious objects, relics, carpets and paintings stolen from the Budapest Jewish Museum last December had been recovered in a nearby village. Two Romanians who also hold German citizenship have been detained in connection with the theft.

"This is the greatest gift we ever received for our New Year celebrations," said Gustav Zoltai, director of the Confederation of Jewish Communities in Hungary.

TRAVEL UPDATE

Paris Police Warn Over Holdups

PARIS (AFP) — The French police issued a warning Wednesday concerning a wave of holdups by drug addicts wielding hypodermic needles allegedly infected by the AIDS virus.

The police said they had made eight arrests in Paris since the beginning of the month after people were attacked as they withdrew cash from automatic bank tellers.

The most dangerous area was Les Halles, in the center of the capital, a huge shopping and entertainment complex haunted by gangs of youths and drug addicts, the police said.

A widespread power failure hit many areas of southern Italy for more than 90 minutes on Wednesday, blocking thousands of people in trains and elevators and knocking out traffic signals in many towns and cities, officials said.

Railroad ticket booths for international travelers were closed Wednesday at major Dutch stations as employees walked out over potential job cuts and company restructuring plans.

Fires in the north of the Spanish province of Aragon have destroyed about 3,000 hectares of pine forest and brush and are getting dangerously close to a Romanesque monastery where the 11th- and 12th-century kings of Aragon are buried.

Traffic will be curtailed in Athens on Thursday because of pollution and a heat wave, the Environment Ministry said. (AFP)

Bare Elbows: Unorthodox?

Reuters

JERUSALEM — A Tel Aviv rabbi, in the face of a withering heat wave, has ruled that a man can divorce his wife for rolling up her sleeves past her elbows in public, an Israeli newspaper said Wednesday.

Some Orthodox Jews insist women cover their arms for modesty. "The sleeves must reach the elbows, covering the whole of the biceps," the daily *Ma'ariv* quoted Rabbi Moshe Bitan as saying.

"Even on the hot days of summer," the rabbi said, "if a woman bares her arms in the street, her husband is entitled to divorce her."

They want them to take place on Dec. 15, this seems too early considering the issues that must be resolved first, Israeli officials have said.

Italy and Germany Vow To Battle Fascist Groups

Reuters

BONN — The German and Italian justice ministers agreed Wednesday that European nations needed to work together more to combat rightist radicals and block the spread of neo-Nazi propaganda.

Sabine Leutheusser-Schnarrenberger and Alfredo Biondi said European governments had to find ways of keeping young people from committing hate crimes against foreigners, a statement said.

The two ministers met here to review legal issues and prepare for a European Union justice and interior ministers meeting scheduled for Sept. 7 in Berlin. East European ministers have been invited to join the session the next day.

Preventative measures supported by the whole of society are needed to combat hate crimes against foreigners, especially

Rightist Denies German Alliance

Reuters

BONN — The far-right leader Franz Schönhuber denied Wednesday that he had formed an alliance with another ultranationalist figure, and he said Germans would soon be fed up with paying for Nazi crimes.

Under fire from the government, the media and his own Republican Party, Mr. Schönhuber, a former Waffen-SS member, said his talks with Gerhard Frey, leader of the hard-line German People's Union, were merely intended to stop feuding within the far-right.

The two men had jointly announced the formation of a "defensive force" against what they described as the "leftist popular front." But on Wednesday Mr. Schönhuber said, "There was no talk of cooperation or an alliance in my statement, just of efforts to avoid letting the established politicians play us off against each other."

This was their first meeting of attempted reconciliation since Aug. 13, when they met at Mr. Berlusconi's residence in Milan.

One of the main items they discussed was pension reform, which involves heavy spending cuts and has millions of pension bolders worried. Mr. Berlusconi's spokesman said the government majority coalition was determined to preserve pensioners' rights.

In October, the government is to present an austerity plan to cut up to 45 billion to 50 billion lire (\$29 billion to \$32 billion) from the budget. Cutting expenditures was a central plank in Mr. Berlusconi's election campaign.

'Palestinian School Year' Nears

By Carly Murphy
Washington Post Service

JERUSALEM — Israel handed over to Palestinians control of education in the West Bank town of Ramallah on Wednesday, marking the first transfer of power to the Palestinian self-rule authority outside the newly autonomous areas.

The ceremony, to be followed by similar ones in other West Bank towns over the next few days, will place the entire educational system of the self-ruled territory in Palestinian hands by the time the school year begins on Sept. 1.

The new school year will be a Palestinian school year in the West Bank and Gaza Strip under the responsibility of the Palestinian National Authority.

Na'im Abu Humos, director of education in the self-rule government.

Mr. Abu Humos said earlier that Sept. 12 had been chosen for transferring other areas of au-

thority because a meeting of countries that have pledged aid to the Palestinians is set for three days earlier.

Most donor countries have withheld aid, complaining that the Palestinians have failed to set up a proper financial system to receive the money.

The PLO and Israel, meanwhile, initiated an agreement Wednesday in Cairo allowing the Palestinians to run their own civil affairs in the occupied West Bank starting Sept. 12. After six weeks of tough bargaining, the chief negotiator, Nabil Shaath for the Palestinians and General Danny Rothschild for Israel, initialed a document that is to be signed Sunday at the Erez crossing between Israel and autonomous Gaza.

Mr. Shaath said earlier that Sept. 12 had been chosen for transferring other areas of au-

thority because a meeting of countries that have pledged aid to the Palestinians is set for three days earlier.

Those talks are likely to be lengthy and difficult since they will cover Israeli troop redeployment, security for Jewish settlements on the West Bank, and Palestinian elections for a government.

Although Palestinians are pushing hard for early elec-

tions and have declared they want them to take place on Dec. 15, this seems too early considering the issues that must be resolved first, Israeli officials have said.

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U.S. Considers Lifting China Sanctions Linked to Rights

By Paul F. Horvitz
International Herald Tribune

WASHINGTON — Three months after President Bill Clinton pledged to continue certain economic sanctions against China for past human rights abuses, Commerce Department officials say discussions have been held about lifting those barriers.

Adding to confusion about the Clinton administration's intentions, Commerce Secretary Ron Brown said Wednesday that there were "no present plans" to lift the sanctions, which bar Washington from providing money to Beijing to plan major development projects.

A day earlier, Mr. Brown said at a briefing that it was "common knowledge" that the ban on development funds for China was "under discussion in the administration" but that no decision had been made.

"Those items are always under consideration," he said.

The comments indicate that a move to lift the sanctions has not been seriously considered by the president but could emerge in coming months.

The subject is sensitive because Mr. Brown begins a major trade mission to China this weekend in hopes of boosting the fortunes of U.S. companies, and because Mr. Clinton had specifically extended the sanctions when he decided in May to grant China unconditional most-favored-nation trading status.

The sanctions were imposed in 1989 after pro-democracy demonstrations were brutally put down by Chinese troops, and Mr. Clinton evidently wanted to retain the sanctions to show his resolve on human rights issues even as he broadened China's favored trading status with the United States.

A senior Commerce Department official said Wednesday that low-level discussions had been

held on development aid but that there were no plans to lift the sanctions.

"It may happen sometime," he said, "but this is not a front-burner issue today."

Mr. Brown, the official said, misspoke when he said discussions were "common knowledge."

The sanctions specifically bar China from receiving co-called trade development assistance and ban the payment of risk insurance for investments in China. Restoring these programs would have high symbolic value for China, whose officials are keen to see the sanctions dropped.

When the sanctions were imposed, the U.S. Trade and Development Agency had been spending about one-quarter of a roughly \$30 million fund to help China conduct feasibility studies for major public works and related development projects. Typically, U.S. companies conducting the studies would have the inside track on winning an eventual construction contract. Today, the total fund has grown to \$45 million

but China is barred from receiving the assistance. A second sanction still in force involves the U.S. Overseas Private Investment Corp., which provides risk insurance to American companies investing in projects abroad.

Mr. Brown, meanwhile, has touted his mission to China as an aggressive effort to gain a foothold for American companies in the world's largest market.

He will travel to Beijing, Shanghai, Guangzhou and Hong Kong with the chief executive of 24 major U.S. corporations, including Atlantic Richfield, Fluor, Westinghouse Electric, Bell Atlantic, Eastman Kodak, Chrysler and TRW.

Mr. Brown is expected to sign agreements with Chinese officials to formalize ways of resolving a range of trade disputes between the two countries, and company-to-company deals are also expected to be sealed.

UN Says It Lacks

Rwanda Monitors

Rights Watch and Inquiry On Killings Seen as Hobbled

By Jane Perlez
New York Times Service

NAIROBI — The United Nations' efforts to monitor human rights abuses in Rwanda called for by the special rapporteur but yet to be approved by the United Nations Security Council.

The presence of credible human rights monitors is considered essential to help persuade the more than 1 million Rwandan refugees in Zaire and Tanzania that it is safe to return home.

The longer the refugees stay in the camps, where members of the former government are successfully waging an alarmist campaign against returning to Rwanda, the more difficult it will be to break up the camps, refugee specialists say.

There have been reports of increased violence in the camps against refugees who do try to return home. Five refugees were taken hostage by extremist Hutu at the Goma refugee camp in Zaire on Wednesday when they tried to head back to Rwanda, the UN High Commissioner for Refugees said.

■ **Toll Put at 1 Million Dead**

A United Nations official said Wednesday that the final death toll in the bloodbath in Rwanda could be well over 1 million, Reuters reported from the Rwandan capital, Kigali.

Charles Petrie, deputy coordinator of the UN Rwanda Emergency Office, said, "I don't think 1 million would be an exaggerated figure."

Mr. Petrie's estimate was backed by a senior aid worker who said his organization had put the deaths, mainly from massacres of minority Tutsi and moderate Hutu government opponents, at around 1.5 million.

Senate Republicans Say They Can Stop Crime Bill

Compiled by Our Staff From Dispatches

WASHINGTON — Senate Democrats and Republicans maneuvered Wednesday to find a way out of a political impasse that has blocked final passage of President Bill Clinton's \$30 billion crime bill.

Democrats say Republicans are stalling and trying to kill the bill because it includes a ban, strongly opposed by the National Rifle Association, on 19 types of semiautomatic assault weapons.

"It is clear that a substantial majority favors passage of the crime bill," the Senate majority leader, George Mitchell of Maine, said.

But Senate Republicans have claimed enough support to derail the measure if they do not get the changes they want in a House-approved version. Republicans say they only

want to make the bill tougher and less costly. "We're prepared to move ahead," said the Republican leader, Bob Dole of Kansas, in a Senate speech Wednesday. "We think we can have a better crime bill."

A vote on the bill has not been scheduled.

On Tuesday, Mr. Dole outlined the Republicans' strategy to remodel the legislation to their satisfaction. He said he had enough Republican votes to block the measure indefinitely on a procedural vote if the Republicans' changes were not adopted.

Mr. Dole released a letter signed by 40 of the 44 Senate Republicans saying they would support his procedural challenge "unless most of our concerns are resolved." With Mr. Dole, the prospective votes for the budget challenge added up to 41, enough to prevail.



The minority leader, Bob Dole, holding a letter from Republican senators who want changes in the crime bill.

BOMB: 2 More Russians Arrested

Continued from Page 1

of the element, can also be used to produce plutonium, but the technology is extremely complex. Plutonium-239 is the material in many forms of nuclear weapons and is one of the most toxic substances known.

Other officials said the most recent investigation began when 11 pounds of uranium-238 were discovered missing at Arzamas-16, a nuclear weapons design center in central Russia, about 400 kilometers (250 miles) east of Moscow.

Arzamas-16 is one of a network of closed cities built during the Soviet era for the research and development of

nuclear weapons. There is a 100-kilometer security zone around the city, according to Russian nuclear officials.

The announcement of the arrests came a day after specialists at Russia's leading nuclear research institute warned that security measures were insufficient at the country's nuclear sites and said that theft of nuclear material was possible.

Russian news organizations reported Wednesday that President Boris N. Yeltsin and Chancellor Helmut Kohl were expected to discuss the problem of illicit trafficking in nuclear substances during the Russian leader's visit to Germany next week.

(AP, AFP)

CUBA: U.S. Readies Guantánamo

Continued from Page 1

"There will be no Cubans coming from Guantánamo to the U.S., either to federal facilities or to any other place."

The Senate Republican leader, Bob Dole, said the surge of boat people showed Mr. Clinton's detention policy was a failure.

"President Clinton's new policy punishes the wrong Cubans," he said, adding that Mr. Clinton should organize an allied coalition to push for Fidel Castro's ouster.

Mr. Clinton last week ended a 28-year policy of granting automatic political asylum to

Cuban refugees, ordering the Coast Guard to intercept Cuban boat people as it does Haitians and take them to Guantánamo.

The United States rejected Cuba's assertion that the only way to stop the refugee exodus was for Washington to hold direct talks with the Castro government on lifting the economic embargo against Havana.

"We see nothing to be gained" from high-level talks, Mr. Tamoff said. "It should be clear after 35 years to Fidel Castro and his government that the way he has been managing the affairs of the island is a failure."

(Reuters, AP)

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FRANCE (zone C) en FF/H - TVA: 18.6%
GO: 3.27%
SCPI: 4.62%
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PAKISTAN en PKR/H - TVA: 10.0%
GO: 2.0

Bhutto Denounces A-Arms Warning

Pakistan Reasserts It Barred Nuclear Weapons Production

Reuters

ISLAMABAD, Pakistan — Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto on Wednesday denounced as irresponsible the assertion by former Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif that Pakistan has nuclear weapons.

"It is a highly irresponsible statement," she told reporters in Karachi in her first comment on Mr. Sharif's warning on Tuesday that any attack on Pakistan by India could spark nuclear war between them. Both nations officially deny having the bomb.

Miss Bhutto would not elaborate. "I cannot comment on every irresponsible statement the leader of the opposition makes."

A Foreign Ministry spokesman said, "In the course of its development of a peaceful nuclear program, Pakistan has acquired the capability to acquire nuclear weapons, but we have made a sovereign decision not to produce them."

Mr. Sharif's statement, made at a rally in the Pakistani-held part of Kashmir on Tuesday, appeared to undermine Pakistan's long-standing denial that it possesses nuclear weapons.

Mr. Sharif, who was prime minister for 30 months until he resigned in July 1993, is now leading a campaign to topple Miss Bhutto.

"I confirm Pakistan possesses the atomic bomb," Pakistan Press International quoted him as saying. An Indian attack on Pakistan could trigger "a nuclear holocaust as both coun-

tries possess atomic bombs," he said.

Defense Minister Aftab Shahban Mirani told the newspaper Frontier Post that Mr. Sharif's claim was "childish act."

In Vienna, the International Atomic Energy Agency said it was unable to comment on whether Pakistan had an atom bomb because Islamabad does not allow inspections of its nuclear sites.

Pakistan, like India and Israel, has not signed the nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty or a safeguards accord that lets the atomic energy agency verify an inventory of a state's declared nuclear materials.

India on Wednesday demanded international action to halt Pakistan's alleged nuclear weapons program. A Foreign Ministry spokesman said Mr. Sharif's declaration had confirmed New Delhi's fears about a Pakistani threat to regional stability.

"The curtain of ambiguity about Pakistan's nuclear program has fallen off," he said. "It is a matter of grave concern that Pakistan is actively pursuing this nuclear weapons program and is clandestinely procuring materials in this regard as is evident from recent reports."

He was referring to a consignment of plutonium seized last week in Germany. Officials in Berlin said they believe the material may have been bound for Pakistan.

Pakistan has denied any link to the plot to smuggle plutonium from Germany.

EUROPEAN TOPICS

Norwegian Medicine: Slapstick or Surgery?

It was like something out of a Buster Keaton film, but it really happened and it was not funny. In the middle of an operation in a Norwegian hospital, the table suddenly collapsed, and only the quick reactions of doctors and nurses saved the anesthetized patient from hitting the floor. Such mishaps, reports *Der Spiegel* of Hamburg, are increasingly common in the Norwegian health-care system.

Ullevål Hospital, Oslo's biggest, has had to close whole wards in winter time because its antiquated heating system is barely able to keep temperatures above freezing. In Trondheim, 73 cancer patients had to wait up to three months for operations. "People with good chances of survival," said the lung specialist Einar Gløersen, "are being left waiting until it is too late to do anything."

Part of the problem, ironically, is the ambitious reach of Norway's health-care system. The country, with only 4.2 million inhabitants, boasts 84 full-service clinics. Even small, remote clinics are equipped for rare and complicated surgery. Costs are high. And the country has a serious budget deficit.

The government says it will issue a report next month outlining measures to restore trust in the medical system. But many Norwegians are not waiting. More and more are traveling to Germany, England or Sweden for operations.

Around Europe

Saving wildlife from man's depredations can be a complicated affair. Natural hab-

itat has been steadily reduced and divided by highways and rail lines. Animals have trouble reaching feeding grounds; their genetic pools are sometimes reduced, leading to mutations; and sometimes, because they are separated from traditional predators, overpopulation results. So in France, the highway and national railway authorities have spent millions of francs to build 130 passages over highways, and high-speed train tracks.

But just because you build it does not mean they will cross. As the daily *Liberation* reports, 72 percent of the passageways are not used at all—or if they are, it is by cyclists and hikers, whose presence scares away those animals not already frightened by the lights and noise of passing cars or trains.

Enter Pierre-Maxime Thauvin, a most creative Parisian. An imitation tree trunk he has devised has a movable covering of bark on one side, liberally coated with pine tar—and when boar come to rub against it, as they love to do, a distributor on the other side releases more pine tar, for the boar, or salt, for deer. By gradually moving these trunks nearer to the passageways, Mr. Thauvin hopes to persuade game to use them.

Highway authorities are waiting for test results before investing in the Thauvin trunk.

The Finnish government wants women in its armed services to receive combat training. Defense Minister Elisabeth Rehn says that all female soldiers aged 17 to 19 should be instructed in the use of arms; the proposal requires parliamentary approval. There are now about 400 women in the Finnish military, all of them volunteers.

Brian Knowlton

A Typhoon Devastates Eastern China Province

Reuters

BELING — The prosperous eastern Chinese province of Zhejiang has been devastated by a typhoon, which killed at least 1,000 people in the city of Wenzhou alone, municipal officials said Wednesday.

The province as a whole faces economic losses that provisionally top \$1 billion, officials said.

Officials in Wenzhou reached by telephone said 771 people were confirmed dead in the greater metropolitan area, with at least 490 people missing.

"Of the missing, I guess we won't be able to find 300 or so," said Chen Weigang. "This was our worst storm in 160 years."

He said the figures were certain to rise since three of the worst-hit counties in Wenzhou had not yet reported in.

A small island in the coastal municipality was completely swallowed by the raging tides.

Mr. Chen said he did not

have an estimate of the number of people seriously injured by the typhoon, designated Fred, which roared through Zhejiang over the weekend, causing some of the highest tides in 20 years.

Provincial officials could not give accurate casualty figures on Wednesday for the province as a whole, saying that about a quarter of the province's 42 million people had been affected by the storm.

High winds and pounding rains destroyed farmland, collapsed thousands of houses, cut electricity, ruined roads and forced thousands of factories to shut down. About 700,000 houses were damaged.

The Wenzhou airport will be closed for at least 15 days because equipment was destroyed, officials said.

More than 2 million people are surrounded by flood waters, and 560,000 have been evacuated to safer areas.



ON TRIAL — Rob Soh Yeong, daughter of South Korea's former president, Roh Tae Woo, appearing in a Seoul court Wednesday to face currency smuggling charges, which she and her husband denied. They were convicted last year of breaking U.S. currency laws.

Reports of Tensions in North Korea

Compiled by Our Staff From Dispatches

SEOUL — German diplomats have confirmed the existence of leaflets in North Korea calling for the overthrow of the government, a sign of opposition to the succession of Kim Jong Il as president and party leader.

The German Foreign Ministry quoted a German diplomat in Seoul as saying that "quite a number" of the leaflets had been found in the gardens of embassies in the diplomatic compound in Pyongyang, the North Korean capital. The ministry said its envoy had not seen one himself.

The South Korean press reported that leaflets opposing the succession of Mr. Kim, 52, the son of President Kim Il Sung, who died July 8, had been scattered around the diplomatic compound last Friday.

One unidentified Western diplomat in Seoul was quoted as saying that the North Korean authorities had gone on special alert since the incident and were in a state of "utter tension."

A North Korean radio commentary on Sunday hinted at opposition to the succession. It said the country's revolutionary work should not end with just one generation.

Mr. Kim has not been seen in public since his father's funeral

on July 20. He looked ill, and there were numerous reports that he was too sick to take full command of the government.

Observers are also puzzled about why Mr. Kim has not yet formally assumed the nation's presidency and leadership of the Korean Workers' Party, which his father held.

South Korea said Wednesday that it was concerned by indications that Mr. Kim was facing problems consolidating his power.

President Kim Young Sam said Tuesday night there had been several "significant movements" in the North. "Our people should be well prepared to cope with any eventuality," an aide quoted him as saying.

"It appears that the power transfer in the North is not pro-

gressing well," the aide said. "The government is concerned about prospects of instability in the North."

Pyongyang's official daily Rodong Shinmun stressed unity and Mr. Kim's leading position in an article on Wednesday.

"Our integral whole has not been broken up or shattered to pieces," it said, "but has been further consolidated even in the bitterest grief at the death of the Great Leader Kim Il Sung."

It repeated previous assertions that Kim Jong Il was "firmly standing at the head of the party, the state and the revolutionary armed forces."

"No force on earth can break this integral whole in which the Great Leader and the people

share the destiny all the time," it added.

Japan's Kyodo news agency quoted Evgeni Bazhanov, deputy head of the Russian Foreign Ministry's Foreign Affairs Academy, as saying in Tokyo on Tuesday that he believed a power struggle was going on over the succession and that the North Korean government would eventually collapse.

It said he based his prediction partly on information from Korean residents in Russia.

Mr. Bazhanov cited the existence of reformists in the government, pent-up popular dissatisfaction, pressure from foreign countries, including China, for reform, and a severe economic crisis.

(Reuters, AP)

Japan Offers Aid to Atone for 'Comfort Women'

Washington Post Service

MANILA — Japan on Wednesday proposed setting up women's vocational training centers as an indirect way to atone for having forced thousands of Asians into prostitution as "comfort women" during World War II, but Philippine victims of the sex slavery rejected the idea.

The proposal was made by the Japanese prime minister, Tomiichi Murayama, in a meeting with President Fidel V. Ramos.

According to a Japanese spokesman, Mr.

Murayama told Mr. Ramos that his new coalition government in Tokyo was "at present considering seriously" how best to express its "apology and remorse" on the issue of comfort women.

Mr. Murayama added that the government was now ready to help establish women's vocational training centers "in a framework of economic cooperation."

An estimated 200,000 women were forced to work as prostitutes for the Japanese Army during World War II.

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International Herald Tribune

PUBLISHED WITH THE NEW YORK TIMES AND THE WASHINGTON POST

Stop Punishing Cubans

President Bill Clinton's abrupt reversal of 28 years of Cuban refugee policy last Friday looked clumsy though, but over the weekend he made it worse. Seeking to punish Fidel Castro for unleashing the latest refugee tide, Mr. Clinton ended up also punishing ordinary Cubans. He cut off all cash support from their relatives in the United States, rather than the 50 percent cut originally announced. By raising the temperature on Cuba when it should be trying to cool it, the administration could yet convert a rhetorical emergency into a real one.

The package of pressures the president unveiled on Saturday did include two legitimate spurs to greater freedom in Cuba — increased radio broadcasts and a new United Nations initiative on human rights. It also included a cutoff of charter flights from the United States — unwise, since Cuban freedom is served by more contacts with Americans, not less.

The administration suspended the payments because they not only help stretch family budgets but also provide hard currency to Havana as recipients exchange their dollars for goods in special government-run stores. The policy seems designed to bring Cuba to a political boil by closing off the refugee safety valve and driving down living standards. Presumably that will hasten a popular revolt, but this course entails a pointless risk to the Cuban people since the Castro regime is already wavering.

Even in decline, Mr. Castro has again shown his uncanny power to get Washington to tie itself in knots. Following a familiar pattern, the United States is overreacting to his provocations and letting domestic politics distort foreign policy priorities.

In any rational calculus, Mexico, with its 92 million people and a North American Free Trade Agreement, should be the administration's main Latin concern

after a critical and tense election. Instead all eyes are fixed on Cuba and continuing efforts to contain the refugee crisis, promoted in one frantic day by Attorney General Janet Reno from non-emergency to national emergency.

The Clinton administration's new offensive against Havana is supported by Cuban-Americans, who were upset when Washington reclassified those who risk their lives to flee Mr. Castro's economically battered police state as "illegal immigrants" rather than refugees from tyranny. They believe the time has finally come to get rid of the Castro regime, and inflicting increased short-term pain on Cuba's people seems worth the long-term gain.

The voice of a million Cuban-Americans should be heard, but it should not be allowed to drive U.S. policy against humane values and larger national interests. Those values weigh against punishing innocent victims, and those interests do not include detonating a large explosion in the Caribbean.

Discontented Cubans do not relish rising up only to be mowed down by a totalitarian regime. They would rather get out and start anew somewhere else. It is unconscionable for Washington to tell them, in effect, no, we will lock you in until you revolt.

Getting rid of Fidel Castro is a job for the Cuban people themselves, not for the U.S. government or Miami exiles. This Cold War orphan can still annoy the United States but poses no serious threat. Instead of gearing up for another round of sterile confrontation, Washington should be spelling out what Cuba could gain, under this regime or a successor, by embracing democracy and respecting human rights. That, rather than increased hunger and misery, might encourage those Cubans who remain in Cuba to work for political change.

— THE NEW YORK TIMES.

Antiquities: A Correction

In an editorial yesterday, we wrongly cited the Metropolitan Museum of Art as the owner of two antique treasures that were returned to Turkey on Aug. 14, some years after that country's government protested that they had been illegally exported. The contested pieces had not been the property of the Met but of two different private galleries in New York, both of which agreed, after years of disputes including an investigation launched by U.S. authorities at Turkey's request, to send the antiquities back to their point of origin. We heard on Tuesday from Metropolitan Museum President William Luer, who also took exception to our description of a previous return of a contested cache of antiquities to Turkey, in a settlement of the long-running "Lydian Hoard" case, as forming a legal and psychological precedent that is making such returns of antiquities more acceptable.

Mr. Luer points out that the purpose of the Met in reaching a settlement of the Lydian Hoard case was to avoid creating a specific legal precedent that would speed such returns of antiquities as a matter of general principle. The Met's executive vice president and counsel to the trustees, Ashton Hawkins, notes that among the legal issues still to be settled in this developing area of law is whether Turkish laws against the export of cultural patrimony, in force since the early 1970s, can be treated as the equivalent of, say, U.S. laws against simple theft.

— THE WASHINGTON POST.

The Vaccine Debacle

Shortly after President Bill Clinton took office, his administration announced that it would provide free vaccinations for all youngsters — rich, poor and in between. The goal was laudable and sounded simple. But the administration's attempts to reach it have been tortured beyond belief.

During the cramped Reagan years, the price of vaccine went up and federal funding for childhood immunization went down. Congress, and eventually President George Bush, pushed for more money. The 1991 Dalkon measles epidemic proved a cautionary tale — 95 percent of the sick children had not been vaccinated because they were too young for school enrollment and their health providers did not have enough free vaccine for everyone. Nevertheless, arguing that vaccines should not be given away to more affluent families, Congress scaled back the Clinton proposal, providing free vaccine only to low-income and uninsured children.

Unfortunately, Congress did not specify how the vaccine should be distributed, planting the seeds for trouble. The administration, having predicated

part of its free-vaccines argument on the "need" of the pharmaceutical industry, proceeded to demonize an established, largely private delivery system that was working just fine. The government would instead establish a national warehouse, to store and distribute vaccine.

This week the administration dropped its plans for the warehouse — in the face of thoroughly plausible testimony from members of Congress, drug company executives, federal auditors and many state officials that the Public Health Service simply did not have the ability to distribute vaccine to tens of thousands of private doctors on schedule. So far, the government is out about \$700,000, money that might more credibly have been spent on other aspects of disease prevention.

Some officials recklessly advertised the vaccine distribution program as a dress rehearsal for their efforts to restructure the entire health care delivery system. That was unfortunate. The larger goal of health care reform should not be made to suffer from one silly but correctable blunder.

— THE NEW YORK TIMES.

Risky Pressure on Cubans, Not Exposure to Freedom

By Jim Hoagland

WASHINGTON — In the Cold War the United States and its allies used the free movement of people, ideas and nonmaterial goods to undermine communism's closed societies. But on Cuba the United States has ignored that lesson. Washington fights tyranny there by enclosing the island and its people ever more tightly in a dictator's grasp.

Over the weekend President Bill Clinton decided to pursue America's longstanding campaign of isolation against Cuba with a new ferocity. His abrupt reversal on refugee policy now traps even the people who flee the island.

The abrupt changes in U.S. policy on Cuba fly in the face of history, logic and compassion. Openness — to refugees, political evolution and cross-border travel — helped bring down Soviet totalitarianism. Openness is also the best course in combating Fidel Castro's tyranny.

Mr. Clinton's temptation to squeeze Mr. Castro until the pigs squeak is understandable. Mr. Castro is torturing. Getting credit for toppling him would shut down the right wing's attacks on Mr. Clinton's foreign policy for at least two days.

The harsh new economic sanctions, cutting off hard currency and goods sent by Cuban-Americans and most charter travel to the island, provide political cover against criticism that Mr. Clinton's refusal of immediate asylum in America to Cuban refugees did nothing to punish Mr. Castro.

But, as he has done in Haiti, he makes living in Cuba more miserable and then refuses to take in those who flee the conditions that American policy exacerbates. Overnight Mr. Clinton abruptly substituted "demagogism" of the United States and its borders for containment of communism as the guiding principle of policy toward Cuba.

In a sense, the president is gambling that public concern about immigration into the United States is greater than the residual concern about communism. More than most American politicians, the allegedly inconsistent Mr. Clinton is consistent in shaping policies which reflect that the Cold War has ended psychologically and politically as well as militarily.

His removal of most favored immigrant status from Cubans is also removal of Mr. Castro's special demon status. As of last Friday, when Mr. Clinton announced the change in policy, Mr. Castro is just another two-bit local dictator, on a par with Haiti's Raoul Cedras. Without a trip-wire reaching back to Moscow, Cuba is for the first time in 34 years not a national security threat to the United States.

White House aides explicitly equate Cuba and Haiti. They tell reporters that prohibitions against taking boat people from either island are an attempt to "de-

magnetize" the United States and prevent Florida and other Sun Belt states from being overrun by economically desperate people from the south.

But that is where the new policy fails in compassion and logic. The burden of suffering falls on the already abused people of the two states, not on the entrenched and corrupt leadership. If there is logic to simultaneous harsher embargoes and the shutting off of refugee flows, it lies in an unavowable hope that the sanctions will provoke public uprisings that will oust Mr. Castro and General Cedras, with no costs in (American) lives.

But Cuba is not Haiti, or just another version of Latin American dictatorship. Cuba today should be seen as part of the flatsom and jetsam of the breakup of world communism. These rotten little regimes — in Cuba, North Korea, Syria and elsewhere — have been stranded by the Soviet collapse and live on borrowed time.

To buy a little more time, some (Syria) try to ingratiate themselves. Others (North Korea) try to intimidate the great powers. In Syria and North Korea, President Clinton (rightly) attempts to seize the opportunity to influence transitions in the remnants of the Soviet empire.

History argues for greater involvement in Cuba's immediate fate, not a shunting off of almost all American contact with the island at this crucial moment.

In the summer of 1989, as large num-

bers of East Germans began to flee the pressure cooker that their Soviet-created government had become, West German Chancellor Helmut Kohl and East German President Erich Honecker made conflicting decisions that set in motion the destruction of world communism.

Mr. Kohl decided to reach out a helping hand to the Germans who were fleeing to the West through Hungary and Czechoslovakia in growing numbers. Mr. Honecker panicked and sealed East Germany's borders. To shut off the migration west, he forbade East Germans to take their vacations even in other Warsaw Pact nations. That decision triggered popular demonstrations that led to the crumbling of the Berlin Wall.

This summer the script is reversed. Mr. Castro has been letting the steam off by letting disaffected Cubans leave the island prison that his misrule has created. He now has an American president to blame for Cubans not being able to join their families in America and for the worsening of the already desperate economic conditions on the island.

Shutting off all the escape valves of the pressure cooker is high-risk, short-term policy. Mr. Clinton's gamble on Cuba must work quickly if it is to work at all. If it does not, he will be obliged to return to the slower, steadier erosion of tyranny by exposure to freedom.

The Washington Post

Who Will Have the Political Courage to Call This Nonsense Off?

By William Pfaff

PARIS — Only a truly innovative man could say, as Bill Clinton said on Aug. 19, that all the United States wants for Cuba is that it be swept up in the Demispheric wave of "democracy and freedom."

President Clinton surely wishes Cubans well, but history contradicts him. The historical American relationship to the Cuban nation has been anything but a struggle for Cuba's liberation.

The events of recent days are a Cuban revenge for that history.

Fidel Castro has a victory. He has compelled Mr. Clinton to reverse an American policy that, since the Cuban Refugee Act of 1966, gave automatic U.S. entry to anyone leaving Cuba. Mr. Clinton now is sending refugees picked up at sea to Guantánamo, the U.S. naval base in Cuba, and putting those who reach the United States into camps. This is a comprehensive response to the anxiety of Floridians and others over the new and deliberately provoked refugee flow, but it is nonetheless a U.S. humiliation.

It is the latest event in America's 35-year obsession with Fidel Castro that produced the Bay of

Pigs debacle in 1961 and the collaboration of the U.S. government with organized crime in a series of increasingly grotesque projects for Mr. Castro's murder.

Elements in both Cuba and the United States repeatedly tried during the early 19th century to bring Cuba into the United States as a slave state. Presidents Polk and Buchanan tried to purchase Cuba (as Grant and McKinley tried later), on a par with Haiti's Raoul Cedras. Without a trip-wire reaching back to Moscow, Cuba is for the first time in 34 years not a national security threat to the United States.

The U.S. public and government supported later Cuban uprisings against Spain, and in 1898 the U.S. invaded Cuba to free it. The result was Cuba's attachment to a new empire, that of the United States.

The operative change in the American conscience is best seen in William McKinley, who had said in his 1897 inaugural address that "we must avoid the temptation of territorial aggression." A year later, finding the United

States in possession of Spain's Caribbean and Pacific possessions, by his own account he fell to his knees in search of divine guidance, and in the early hours of the morning heard the voice of God instructing him to annex the Philippines, Puerto Rico, Wake Island and Hawaii followed.

Cuba was not annexed, since the justification for the Spanish-American war had been Cuban independence. When a republic was at last proclaimed, in 1902, ending U.S. military occupation, Cuba's constitution incorporated the notorious Platt Amendment giving the United States a permanent right to intervene, and the United States was awarded the extraterritorial naval base at Guantánamo Bay.

The Cubans rebelled against this arrangement, and the United States reoccupied the island between 1906 and 1909. American troops went back again in 1912 when black Cubans rose up against racial discrimination.

The Platt Amendment was finally revoked under the Roosevelt administration in 1934, but by that time Cuba was under the corrupt control of the first of the

two despots who ruled it from 1928 to 1959. The second of these, Sergeant (subsequently General) Fulgencio Batista, was overthrown by Fidel Castro.

If democracy is indeed sweeping the Western Hemisphere, as Mr. Clinton says, part of its task must be to transform the inherited U.S. attitude toward Cuba. Economic boycott by the Clinton administration, with naval blockade perhaps to come, is a direct continuation of the U.S. policy that began when the Maine was blown up in Havana harbor in February 1898.

One would think it time for a change. Mr. Clinton claims that democracy is sweeping the Caribbean. In Haiti? In the Dominican Republic? Who will follow Fidel Castro? Will the future bring Havana something better than the squallid coincidence of Cuban and U.S. commercial and criminal interests that prevailed before 1959? A Cuban song of the 1950s lamented, "The roads of my Cuba never lead where they should."

International Herald Tribune
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Mexico Risks Bloodshed After an Election for More of the Same

By Dick J. Reavis

MONTERRAY, Mexico — During the terms of Mexico's last two presidents, the purchasing power of consumers has declined by 60 percent, unemployment has doubled, emigration to the United States has not abated and nearly a quarter of the work force has taken to moonlighting, or to bawling cheap wages on the streets, in a struggle to survive.

On Sunday, three major presidential candidates stood before the electorate. Cuauhtémoc Cárdenas of the leftist Party of the Democratic Revolution promised economic justice for the peasants.

Diego Fernández de Cevallos of the National Action Party, a right-of-center group, promised to throw out the crooks who have

been running the country. Ernesto Zedillo Ponce de León of the ruling Institutional Revolutionary Party, which has monopolized the presidency since 1929, promised only more of the same. Yet partial tallies give Mr. Zedillo 50 percent of the total, with Mr. Fernández at 27 percent and Mr. Cárdenas at 17. If democracy means that voters seek self-interest, what happened?

Jorge Castañeda, a political scientist and leading critic of the PRI, says he is not quite sure. "There was a lot of the traditional, retail vote peddling," he told me. "But I think that the results reflect the will of the people."

Most watchdog organizations

are indicating that the election was probably the cleanest ever in Mexico. But Eduardo Argujo Baldenegro, a 38-year-old engineer, isn't buying that. He was the mayoral candidate of the Party of the Democratic Revolution in Villa de García, a small town of adobe walls and pecan orchards in the state of Nuevo León.

The most striking exhibit for

Mr. Argujo's case is a pair of brown leather work shoes, shiny new, wrapped in a plastic bag, emblazoned with the emblem of the PRI. The manufacturer's marking on the thick soles has been buffed away so that their origin can't be traced.

"These shoes were given to

people in this district, so that they'd vote for the PRI," insisted Mr. Argujo, who narrowly lost the mayoral contest in 1991 to the PRI candidate.

On Sunday, nearly 90 percent of the town's eligible voters showed up at the polls. Shortly before midnight, local election officials had lost by about 250 votes.

On Monday, he had his followers demonstrated outside the town's Office of Electoral Affairs. That night they were rewarded: the vote was annulled on account of electoral fraud.

Mr. Argujo's crusade proves that in Mexico, where crooked victories are sometimes bargained away, the electoral curtain may not fall for weeks to come. Still, Mr. Zedillo's ascension to the presidency is assured. And the real loser will be the organized left. That bodes ill for the country.

Mr. Cárdenas called his supporters to town squares across the nation at noon on Monday, urging them to contest election results in their hometowns. Fewer than 50,000 supporters answered the call in Mexico City, a mere fifth of the crowd that Mr. Cárdenas drew there two weeks ago.

When the meeting ended, Mr. Castañeda, who was present, told me, at least a thousand people were recruited to sessions organized by armed groups that proclaim alliances with the guerrilla leader in Chiapas, Subcomandante Marcos. These people have no stake in the peaceful reordering of things. Mr. Zedillo is not the

only beneficiary of Mr. Cárdenas's faltering strength. Subcomandante Marcos is smiling, too.

Mr. Cárdenas is a unique figure in Mexican politics: a man with moral authority. Yet his poor showing this year may fatally undermine his standing. To stay relevant, he must become Mexico's Martin Luther King Jr. — be must start a nationwide wave of nonviolent civil disobedience against the PRI's electoral and political abuses.

If he cannot or will not lead his followers into the streets, the armed radicals on his left will step into the vacuum created by his political demise, as the Black Panthers did when Mr. King was assassinated. A wave of violence and repression will begin. The reputation of Mexico's government and its opposition will be bloodied.

Only one person, a Mexico City resident named Eduardo Rosas, was arrested for an electoral crime on Sunday. According to the authorities, he walked into a polling station, took his ballot and tore them up. Destruction of electoral materials is a crime.

The government says Mr. Rosas was drunk. But like the millions of Mexicans who cast their ballots, he may have done all that he could to stop the carnage that lies ahead.

The writer is author of "Conversations With Moctezuma: Ancient Shadows Over Modern Life in Mexico." He contributed this comment to The New York Times.

IN OUR PAGES: 100, 75 AND 50 YEARS AGO

1894: Servian Reversal

PARIS — Many unexpected events arise in Servia, but the news which has just been received from that little kingdom passes all bounds. It is stated that the young King Alexander, acting on the advice of his father, is about to abrogate the Constitution of 1869, which was recently re-established, and revert to that of 1883, which it superseded. The latter was discarded only a few months ago as not only worthless but the cause of all the trouble in Servia. The Servians must be a most accommodating people.

OPINION

The Gridlock Doesn't Stop At the Washington Beltway

By E. J. Dionne Jr.

WASHINGTON — For the Clinton presidency, the past week was a very big deal, to use one of the president's favorite phrases. There were lessons all around. The problem is that the lessons are contradictory. Advocates of utterly discordant agendas will say that the doings around the crime bill "prove" whatever point they are trying to make. But beware of all the dogmatic conventional wisdoms busy being born. The real problem in Washington at the moment is that the American electorate has not figured out its own mind.

That will not stop the theorizing. It will, for example, be said that passage of the crime bill with 46 votes from mostly moderate Republicans shows the importance to Bill Clinton of reaching out to the other party for support. That is true. But it is also true that by attacking the Republicans fiercely for working at first to kill the crime bill, the president scared some of those moderates back into negotiations. Many in their ranks did not want to be blamed for gridlock, especially on an issue as important as crime. A little bipartisanship helped breed a little bipartisanship.

There will be much talk of governing from "the center" and how the final crime deal proved that could work. Well, maybe. But the initial crime bill that went down was in many ways a classic in centrism, Clinton-style. It tilted "right" on values and rhetoric (three-strikes-and-you're-out, new death penalties) and "left" on federal spending (for 100,000 cops, more prisons, the prevention programs). For good measure, it included a way for Mr. Clinton to take his stand against "special interests" (by supporting an assault weapons ban over the objections of the National Rifle Association).

This formula is supposed to bring right and left together. But the first time around, parts of the left rebelled against the death penalties, most of the Republicans rebelled against the spending, and conservative Democrats preferred to stand with the NRA and aim their fire at Mr. Clinton. Instead of broadening the center, Mr. Clinton and the House leadership shrank it.

But wait: Do not conclude that the Clinton approach is hopeless. On the contrary, when a few deals were adjusted during all-night negotiating sessions last weekend, the old engine came back to life. The center reappeared, for a moment, at least.

There is a reason that dogmatic pronouncements about Washington are both popular and mostly wrong these days. Many would like to offer some sweeping explanation of just why things here seem so strange. But that very strangeness is the product of contradictory political forces that neither Republicans nor Democrats have mastered.

The heart of the problem is that the electorate is sending a steady stream of confusing signals. It continues to be skeptical of government and yet wants government to do more. Majorities tell pollsters that they long for bipartisanship concord, yet wonder if bipartisan deals are not just politicians' plots.

In any event, who can afford to be bipartisanship when passionate subgroups (who vote in large numbers) punish any sign of weakness on issues such as gun control or the death penalty? Voters seem to want Mr. Clinton to be both more conciliatory and also tougher and less compromising. They want government to do it all on health care (i.e., guarantees everyone coverage), yet fear that their own health care will be wrecked if the government does anything.

An uncertain public creates edgy politicians who are always wary of putting a foot wrong, yet are always hoping to find opportunities to tilt public opinion their way. This puts a premium on symbols.



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

And Iran's Neighbors?

Regarding "Oppose Iranian and Other Extremists, Not All Islam" (Opinion, Aug. 19):

Omar Al Hassan has weighty credentials, but his article is short on facts and long on conjecture.

Iran's annual arms procurement was recently estimated by the U.S. National Security Council at \$2 billion. Sources in Europe have cited figures as low as \$800 million. This contrasts to Saudi Arabia, as well as Kuwait and other Gulf emirates, which are receiving or have on order close to \$40 billion in weaponry, including nondefensive systems like the F-15. Assuming a delivery schedule spread over five years, these states, with a combined population of 20 million, are spending perhaps four

times as much as Iran annually and 12 times as much per capita.

Further, good neighborliness does not necessarily mean giving away the family silver. The ownership of the disputed Gulf islands is well documented in both Iranian and British archives. The last time any question arose regarding their administration was in 1971, when the British, after pulling out of the area in a continuation of the Wilson government's "East of Suez" policy, returned them to Iran.

KEWMARS BOZORGMEHR
London

They Do Not Feel Free

Regarding "Population Economics: The Sensitive View Goes Unheard" (Opinion, Aug. 21) by Julian L. Simon:

Of the hundreds of millions of couples in poor countries who wish to plan their families, most do not get the chance. Almost half of the 50 million women in poor countries who became pregnant in the last 12 months did not want another child. Where is Mr. Simon's "true reproductive freedom" in this situation?

Under the circumstances in which most poor people live, not giving women birth control amounts to forcing them to bear children — a fact that Mr. Simon and Pope John Paul II conveniently ignore. From a political standpoint, to deny women access to birth control is to deprive them of a fundamental human right; and from a human standpoint it is hugely callous.

KATHERINE CLARK
Heidelberg, Germany

But if they want the politicians to give the Republicans their justification without seeming to cave on the essentials (which, mercifully, saved the assault weapons ban).

Episodes such as this one feed the public's sense that so much of what happens in Washington has more to do with partisan politics, narrowly conceived, than with the problems supposedly under discussion. Yet voters also need to hold themselves accountable for their role in creating this mess. Politics is about choices. Professional politicians are paid to make them on behalf of majorities.

BOOKS

BRECHT & COMPANY:
Sex, Politics, and the Making of Modern Drama
By John Fuegi. 732 pages.
\$32.50. Grove.

Reviewed by Wendy Smith

IT'S never been a secret that Bertolt Brecht (1898-1956) was not the world's nicest guy. You don't need to have read anything more than scattered memoirs to be aware that the man many consider the greatest playwright of the 20th century was chronically unfaithful to his wife, the actress Helene Weigel, frequently cruel to his many lovers, and extremely sharp (verging on dishonest) in his business dealings.

It's also common knowledge that this avowed Communist made a cooperative appearance before the House Committee on Un-American Activities in 1947, that when going to East Germany in 1949 he hedged his bets with an Austrian passport and a Swiss bank account, that he said nothing about the Stalinist purges of the 1930s, during which many of his friends in the Soviet Union were murdered, and commented only obliquely on the German Dem-

WHAT THEY'RE READING
• Mark Palmer, former American ambassador to Hungary and now president of the Central European Development Corporation in Berlin, is reading "Fatherland" by Robert Harris.

"This book says so much about the terrible events that took place in this city for so long and it brings it all up to the present. It's a frightening story, and you can learn from it."

(Michael Kallenbach, IHT)



ococratic Republic's repressive actions in the 1950s.

But until now, everyone assumed he wrote his own plays; in fact, the subtext of many Brecht biographies was that a lot could be forgiven the author of "Three Penny Opera," "Galileo," "Mother Courage" and "The Good Woman of Setzuan."

John Fuegi's scathing account of Brecht's life directly challenges that assumption. A founder of the International Brecht Society and author of two critical studies of the German dramatist, Fuegi documents (backed up by extensive documentation) that three remarkable women — Elisabeth Hauptmann, Margarete Steffin

and Ruth Berlau — wrote substantial portions of the plays mentioned above and others. All three were dedicated Communists and gifted artists in their own right who, because they had the misfortune to fall in love with him, found themselves ensnared in a web of sexual, professional and political manipulation through which the charismatic and unscrupulous Brecht made them wholly dependent on him and received virtually all the rewards of their labors.

Fuegi is lavish with details, and persuasively sketches a chilling basic outline. The female "collaborator" did the basic research, identified material that could be used as sources, did the necessary translations, then — sometimes with Brecht, hot often without him — roughed out the basic structure and wrote the early drafts. In Fuegi's assessment, Brecht was at most the co-creator of many of his most famous plays.

These are devastating charges, made all the more so by Fuegi's disdain for fellow Brecht scholars who he feels have ignored the evidence about these women's contributions. Indeed, it is most disturbing to reread previous biogra-

Wendy Smith, the author of "Real Life Drama: The Group Theatre and America, 1931-1940," wrote this for The Washington Post.

and Ruth Berlau — wrote substantial portions of the plays mentioned above and others. All three were dedicated Communists and gifted artists in their own right who, because they had the misfortune to fall in love with him, found themselves ensnared in a web of sexual, professional and political manipulation through which the charismatic and unscrupulous Brecht made them wholly dependent on him and received virtually all the rewards of their labors.

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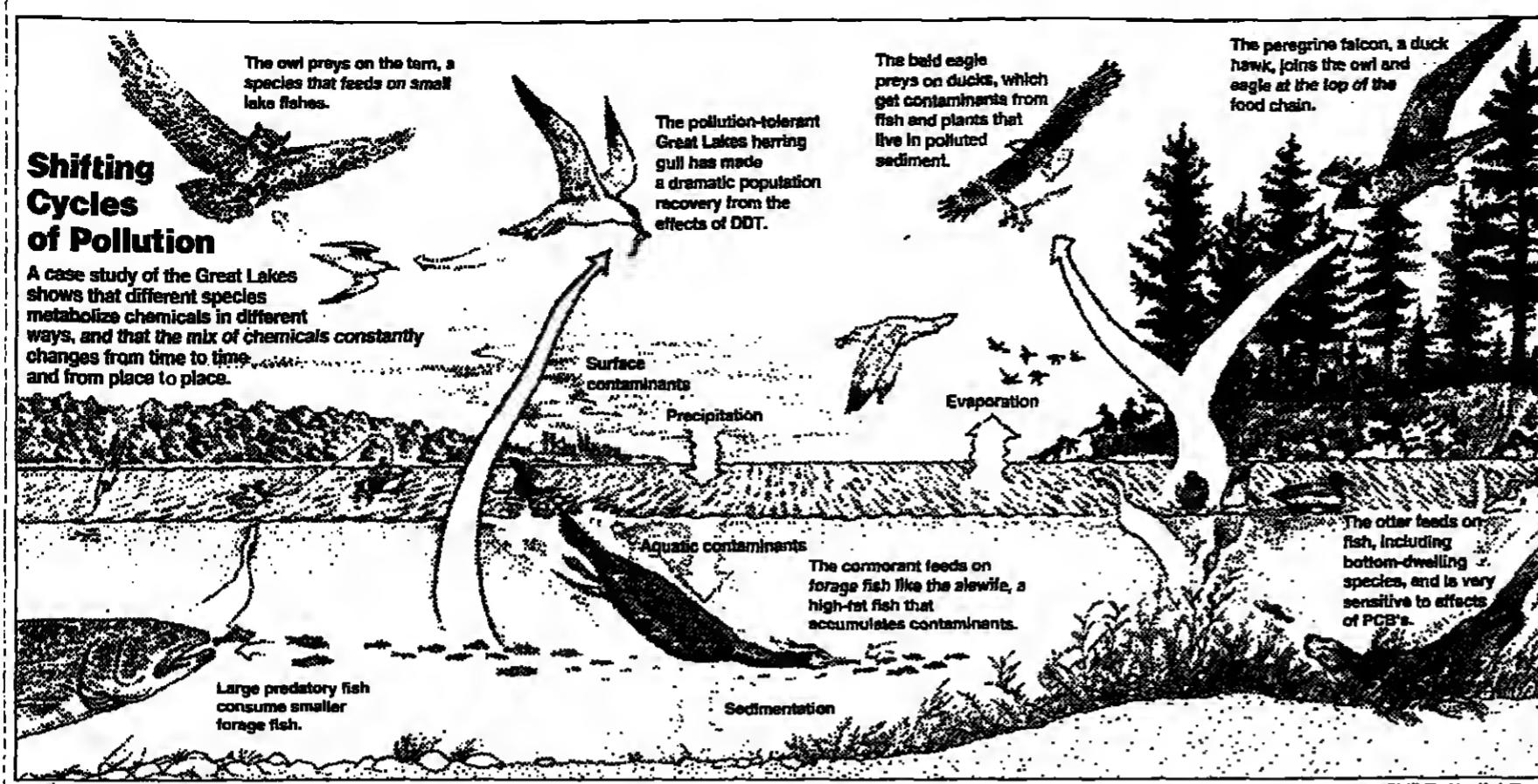
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HEALTH / SCIENCE



Renewed Alarm on Pesticides and Fertility

By William K. Stevens
New York Times Service

NEW YORK — In a new wave of concern about synthetic chemicals in the environment, some biologists are warning that trace amounts of pesticides and other man-made substances may be interfering with the action of reproductive hormones and thereby damaging the fertility of various animal populations, including humans.

The evidence is far from conclusive. But the economic and political stakes are high; should the few fears prove justified, a large group of important industrial chemicals might have to be curbed.

At least 45 synthetic chemicals, most of them pesticides, have been found to upset the workings of the hormonal, or endocrine, system, and for this reason they are known as endocrine disruptors.

There is little doubt, many scientists agree, that when people or animals are exposed to large doses of these chemicals, as has happened in chemical spills or contamination of food, serious derangements of reproductive function sometimes result.

Male alligators born in Florida's Lake Apopka after a large pesticide spill in 1980 were found to be incapable of producing sperm. In Taiwan, reproductive and other defects have been noted in the sons of

women who in 1978 and 1979 ingested cooking oil contaminated with PCBs.

The question is whether trace amounts of these chemicals that are now widely distributed in the environment are exerting a less visible but still pernicious effect on the reproductive fitness of many species of wildlife and possibly even humans.

For at least some wildlife populations, "I'd say we are on a fast track to extinction," said Dr. Theodore Colborn, a zoologist with the World Wildlife Fund, a conservation organization in Washington.

"You would expect the same thing to happen with human populations."

Other experts disagree.

"I don't think it is a huge problem at this point," said Dr. Thomas Goldsworthy, a toxicologist with the Chemical Industry Institute of Technology, a nonprofit research organization at Research Triangle Park, North Carolina, that is largely supported by industry.

Said Dr. Tom Orme, a Washington-based toxicologist with the American Council on Science and Health in New York, which has long held claims of harm from chemicals in the environment to be exaggerated: "We suspect there is a lot of baloney here. On the other hand, to develop the hard science to refute it is going to be a formidable task."

Still other experts view the issue as pos-

sibly serious but say it is too early to call it one way or the other.

"We don't want to argue we've got a massive problem," said Dr. Larry Reiter, the director of the Environmental Protection Agency's Health Effects Research Laboratory at Research Triangle Park. But he also said, "I don't think we want to argue there is no problem."

Although many biologists are convinced that endocrine disruptors are pervasive, they have yet not been able to assess the quantity and distribution of the chemicals in the environment. Nor is there any good survey to tell what burden of these chemicals is carried in the body fat of the general population.

But a number of studies suggest grounds for concern, particularly from the combined effects of several different chemicals acting in concert either to mimic or block the crucial effects of natural estrogens on sexual development in the fetus.

Dr. Ana M. Soto and Dr. Carlos Sonnenschein, biologists at Tufts University, have found that doses of estrogen-mimicking pesticides too small to have any effect individually on test-tube cultures of cells from breast-cancer tissue have a powerful effect when combined. Estrogenic spur the growth of such cells.

Other laboratory studies have shown

that the synthetic chemicals can disrupt the reproductive development of mammal fetuses. And field investigations have traced reproductive disorders in mammals and birds to the consumption of fish whose flesh contained the chemicals.

Some environmentalists are calling for a phaseout of endocrine-disruptor chemicals, and there is legislation before Congress to replace some chlorine compounds, many of which have been identified as endocrine disruptors, with feasible alternatives.

The EPA and the United States Fish and Wildlife Service have asked the National Academy of Sciences to investigate the problem.

The debate is in some ways a replay of "Silent Spring," Rachel Carson's landmark book published in 1962, in which she argued that fat-soluble pesticides in the bodies of birds were interfering with reproduction. Her thesis provoked a barrage of criticism, but biologists in time learned that many chlorinated hydrocarbons like DDT do indeed sabotage reproduction, for example by making the shells of birds' eggs too fragile.

DDT and similar pesticides like aldrin and dieldrin were banned long ago in the United States. But their residues persist in the environment, not the least because they remain to use in much of the world and are being transported to America on globe-girdling winds.

Toxic Shock Threat Hasn't Gone Away

By Jane E. Brody
New York Times Service

NEW YORK — Toxic shock syndrome may have faded from prominent public concern but not from the medical record books. This often-fatal disease may be nearly as common now as it was in the early 1980s, when it terrified menstruating women, especially those who used highly absorbent tampons.

Cases of toxic shock fell off sharply in 1984 after Rely, made by Procter & Gamble Co., and other superabsorbent tampons were taken off the market. But according to data gathered in Minnesota, toxic shock cases slowly began to rise again as the staphylococcal bacteria that could produce the deadly toxin spread to more people.

Avoiding the organism is problematic, since half the U.S. population already carries staphylococcal bacteria on mucous membranes and one-quarter of those who are infected carry the kind that can produce a deadly toxin.

Most of these "Typhoid Marys," among them health care providers like surgeons, are immune to the toxin but can spread the organism to others who are susceptible.

Today, about half the cases of staphylococcal toxic shock syndrome have no connection with tampons or menstruation. They affect a wide range of people, including older women, men and children, under a wide range of circumstances: in conjunction with surgery, a wound, influenza, sinusitis, childbirth, use of a contraceptive sponge, cervical cap or diaphragm, intravenous drug abuse, an abscess, boil, cut or even an insect bite.

A very severe form of staphylococcal toxic shock can occur in conjunction with influenza; the influenza virus helps the bacteria invade throat cells and, by lowering the acidity of the throat, enables the bacteria to produce toxin. A particularly deadly form can also attack AIDS patients.

Based on the number of cases of definite and probable toxic shock occurring each year in Minnesota, Dr. Patrick Schlievert estimates that 5,000 to 10,000 cases of staphylococcal toxic shock syndrome now occur each year in the United States, making it as common as Lyme disease.

Dr. Schlievert, a microbiologist and toxic shock specialist at the University of Minnesota, said that national reporting of toxic shock cases was very incomplete. "In Minnesota alone there are as many toxic shock cases reported annually as are reported by the entire country to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention," he said.

Furthermore, there has been a sudden increase in cases of toxic shock associated with a different bacterium, *Streptococcus A*, the culprit in the recent rash of severe

illnesses and deaths from so-called flesh-eating bacteria.

Toxin-producing streptococci can invade chickenpox lesions in children and any break in the skin in adults. It mainly affects healthy adults, between the ages of 20 and 50; women acquire it mainly during menstruation or during the second two trimesters of pregnancy, Dr. Schlievert said. From 10,000 to 20,000 cases of streptococcal toxic shock now occur each year, with a death rate of up to 50 percent.

Although all forms of toxic shock syndrome are relatively rare, they are common enough and serious enough to warrant a widespread alert to their early symptoms, especially since many patients do not take the first signs of trouble seriously and doctors unfamiliar with the syndrome often misdiagnose it until it is too late to save the patient.

This is one situation in which patients or their families must take control, forcing doctors to explore the possibility of toxic shock syndrome by asking, "Do I have this disease?"

UNLIKE staphylococcal toxic shock, which attacks a disproportionate number of women, the streptococcal form affects men and women in equal numbers. Children who develop it are likely to become deathly ill even before the bacteria attack soft tissue, and any child who suddenly gets sick while recovering from chickenpox should be suspected of having streptococcal toxic shock.

However, Dr. Schlievert said, many patients who do not meet all the classical criteria for toxic shock may have what he and others call probable or possible toxic shock syndrome.

Making the correct diagnosis and promptly treating the disease is important in these cases, too, since 5 to 15 percent of patients will otherwise die. He added that the removal of superabsorbent tampons from the market had eliminated one cause of the severest form, and "today a lot of the menstrual cases fall into the classification of possible toxic shock syndrome."

Dr. Larry J. Strausbaugh of the Veterans Affairs Medical Center in Portland, Oregon, wrote in the journal Postgraduate Medicine, "The diagnosis should be considered in any severely ill patient with fever and hypotension in whom staphylococcal or streptococcal colonization or infection is remotely possible."

In addition, he wrote, "Toxic shock syndrome should be suspected in patients without rash or with rashes other than the classic red one."

Time is of the essence in treating toxic shock syndrome, especially when it is caused by flesh-eating streptococci. Once these bacteria begin to destroy soft tissue, they can multiply rapidly and seep toxin.

IN BRIEF

Australian Surface Lines Baffle Scientists

MELBOURNE (Reuters) — Straight lines across southern Australia's flat, featureless Nullarbor Plain and invisible except via satellites are baffling scientists. The parallel lines up to 400 kilometers (250 miles) long, and only visible with infrared satellite equipment in daylight, were discovered three weeks ago.

They said there are no known geological structures such as fault lines that would explain the images. The lines are up to 15 kilometers wide and about 100 kilometers apart near the middle of the plain. The most likely explanation was a different type of soil structure, vegetation or moisture pattern compared with the surrounding earth. Ian Burton, a senior physicist with the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organization, said.

Teas Found to Inhibit Skin Tumors in Mice

WASHINGTON (WP) — A team headed by Zhi Y. Wang at Rutgers University has found that green tea, black tea and decaffeinated versions of both inhibited the formation of skin tumors in mice.

Comparing the results against those from a control group that received the ultraviolet irradiation, to induce tumors, but drank just water, the researchers found that all the teas inhibited the formation of tumors and reduced the average size of those that did form. "The results of our study indicate that black and green tea have a similar potent inhibitory effect," the researchers stated.

Recent studies have also shown that green tea, drunk mainly by Asians, can reduce the incidence of esophageal cancer.

Biosphere II Diet Caused Energy Loss

TORONTO (AP) — Eight people sealed inside Biosphere II for two years experienced excess drops in metabolism and declines in physical activity because of their low-calorie, low-fat diet, a study has found.

Biosphere II, a glass-enclosed structure designed to show that humans can survive in a self-sustaining environment, was a not entirely successful experiment. Food production fell short of initial expectations and Biosphere's residents were forced to subsist on 1,700 calories a day for the first six months.

Closing In on an Ultracold World

By Malcolm W. Browne
New York Times Service

NEW YORK — Sixty-nine years ago, theorists calculated that if a certain class of atoms could be chilled to temperatures below any that exist in nature, the atoms would merge with each other to become huge "super atoms": bizarre states of matter straddling the gulf between the everyday world and the ultrasmall domain of quantum mechanics.

Recent advances at dozens of laboratories in the United States and Europe have encouraged some scientists to believe that they may be nearing this elusive goal.

The creation of a Bose-Einstein condensate, as this hypothetical superatomic state of matter is called, would be a historic landmark in physics, one that many physicists say would be worthy of a Nobel Prize.

It would not only demonstrate the validity of some outlandish predictions of quantum theory, but would create a form of matter that may never have existed anywhere before — a substance with properties scientists can only guess at.

No one knows what a Bose-Einstein condensate, or super atom, would look like. But scientists can only guess at.

Condensate would have been

wonderful, but it would be incidental to our main task, which is to apply atomic cooling to improving the precision of timekeeping," he said.

The NIST intends to exploit the record temperature it has achieved in building the most accurate clock ever devised.

Improving the accuracy of the current champion timekeeper — the NIST-7, which gains or loses less than one second every million years — will require supercold temperatures, comparable to those needed to create Bose-Einstein condensates, Dr. Rolston said. The laboratory's success in reaching a temperature of 700 nanokelvins, or somewhat less than one-millionth of a degree above the absolute zero.

The absolute zero, a temperature fixed by the laws of thermodynamics that can be approached but never quite reached, is defined as zero degrees on the Kelvin scale, minus 273.15 degrees on the Celsius scale and minus 459.4 degrees Fahrenheit.

The new record temperature is far colder than any matter astronomers have been able to measure anywhere in the universe, and should be cold enough to bring about Bose-Einstein condensation, theorists believe, if more atoms could be packed into the apparatus where the cooling takes place. So far, however, no one has achieved a high enough concentration of atoms at a low enough temperature.

Dr. Steven Rolston, a member of the NIST team, said he did not expect that his laboratory's current equipment could produce colder temperatures or create a Bose-Einstein condensate, but that he was not unduly disappointed.

"Creating a Bose-Einstein condensate would have been wonderful, but it would be incidental to our main task, which is to apply atomic cooling to improving the precision of timekeeping," he said.



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On October 6th, the IHT will publish a Special Report on

The Automotive Industry

Among the topics to be covered are:

- The auto industry's dream of a "global car".
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- Major players in the China market.

This supplement will coincide with the "Mondial de l'Automobile" show, which will be held in Paris from September 29th to October 9th.

For further information, please contact Bill Maher

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Herald INTERNATIONAL **Tribune**

PUBLISHED WITH THE NEW YORK TIMES AND THE WASHINGTON POST

NYSE

Wednesday's Closing

Tables include the nationwide prices up to the closing on Wall Street and do not reflect late trades elsewhere. *Via The Associated Press*

12 Month St.

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(Continued on page 13)

BUSINESS

International Herald Tribune, Thursday, August 25, 1994

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THE TRIB INDEX: 117.14

International Herald Tribune World Stock Index © composed of 250 internationally investable stocks from 25 countries, compiled by Bloomberg Business News. Jan. 1, 1992 = 100.

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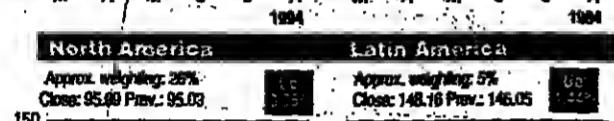
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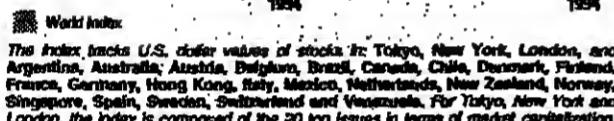
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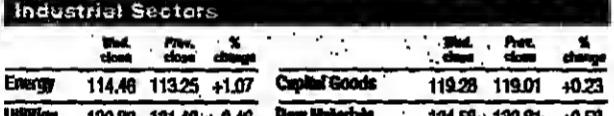
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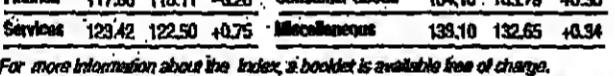
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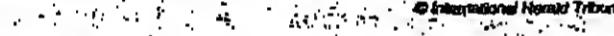
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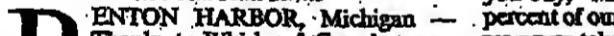
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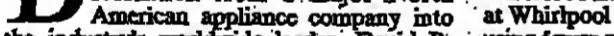
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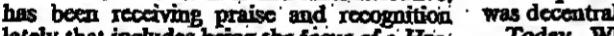
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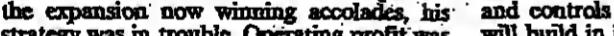
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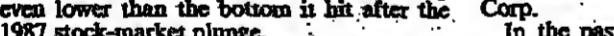
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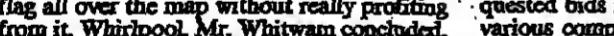
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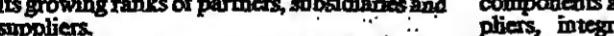
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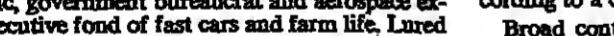
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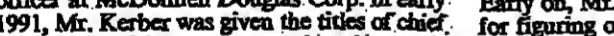
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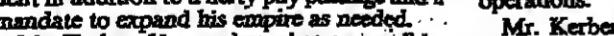
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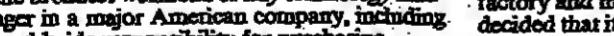
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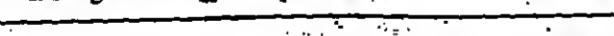
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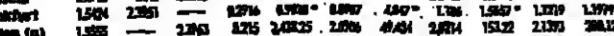
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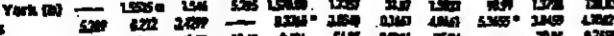
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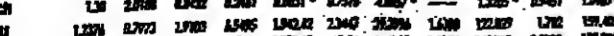
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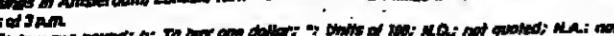
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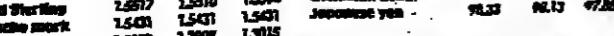
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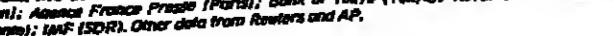
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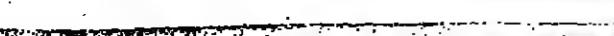
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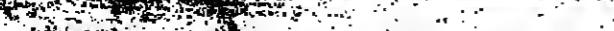
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MARKET DIARY

Japanese Buying Keeps Dollar High

Bloomberg Business News

NEW YORK — The dollar rallied against the yen and most other currencies Wednesday after the Japanese central bank bought the U.S. currency aggressively for a second day.

Rallies in the U.S. stock and bond markets also helped the dollar's advance.

Meanwhile, in Mexico City, the new peso fell against the dollar, which rose about 1.5

Foreign Exchange

centavos to 3.3525 pesos. Traders said the fall was due to a lack of liquidity in the market and some nervousness in the wake of general elections.

The Bank of Japan probably spent \$1 billion a day over the past two days in an effort to keep the dollar from falling against the yen, said David Gilmore, a partner at Foreign Exchange Analytics.

"The Bank of Japan is keeping the currency market on its toes this week," said Jim Raphael, assistant vice president at NatWest USA Bancorp in Jersey City, New Jersey.

The dollar closed at 98.99 yen, up from Tuesday's 97.83.

Gains against the yen persuaded many traders to buy dollars for Deutsche marks.

MARKET: Surges on Goods Data

Continued from Page 1

Treasury bond rose 29/32 point, to 100 15 32, sending the yield down to 7.46 percent from 7.54 percent Tuesday.

Weak economic data are sometimes bad news for the stock market. But investors read the durable-goods orders report to mean that "the threat of inflation is abating, and you

U.S. Stocks

can extrapolate from that that the Fed doesn't have to raise interest rates any more this year," said Them Brown, market strategist at Rutherford, Brown & Catherwood in Philadelphia.

The U.S. central bank raised interest rates by half a percentage point last week — the fifth rise this year — in a bid to head off inflation that could accompany strong economic growth. The move depressed stocks because of concerns that higher rates could choke off economic growth.

But Wednesday's gains show

the dollar rose to 1.5460 DM from 1.5311 DM.

"The outlook is grim for the fall because trade tensions will build," Mr. Gilmore said.

The Bank of Japan started buying after the dollar fell to five-week lows against the yen in New York trading on Monday amid speculation that negotiators will not reach agreement on ways to open Japanese markets to imported goods by a Sept. 30 deadline.

Many traders expect the Clinton administration to call for a strong yen or at least let the dollar fall without comment.

The dollar, stocks and bonds were feeding on each other's strength, said David Durst, a trader at Bear Stearns & Co. "People are buying dollars to buy U.S. stocks and bonds," he said. "The dollar looks cheap to investors at these levels."

Bonds and stocks, in turn, benefited from the dollar's relative strength since that made foreign investors more willing to buy U.S. assets. The dollar's slide against most major currencies this year has cost those holding U.S. assets dearly.

The British pound closed at \$1.5535, down from \$1.5570. The dollar rose to 5.2950 French francs from 5.2525.

Via Associated Press

Aug. 24

The Dow

Daily Closings of the Dow Jones Industrial Average

Source: Dow Jones & Co.

INDEX

Open High Low Last Chg.

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Trans. 150.18 140.16 135.65 140.18 -12.18

U.S. 187.91 187.91 187.91 187.94 +1.53

Comp. 1327.97 1322.61 1304.48 1322.33 +1.23

Last 1322.33

Chg. +1.23

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Wellcome Files Suit Over Herpes Drug

Compiled by Our Staff From Dispatches

LONDON — Wellcome PLC launched a legal broadside against SmithKline Beecham PLC on Wednesday, claiming its rival's new anti-herpes drug Famvir infringed U.S. patents

on Wellcome's best-selling Zovirax medicine.

Wellcome said its U.S. subsidiary, Burroughs Wellcome Co., had filed a lawsuit in North Carolina seeking an injunction on the sale of Famvir in the United States and seeking unspecified damages.

It argues Famvir is virtually identical to Zovirax and that the method used to deliver it into the bloodstream is covered by another Wellcome patent.

SmithKline denied the claims and said it would vigorously defend its position.

SmithKline launched Famvir for the treatment of herpes zoster, or shingles, in the United States last month, breaking Wellcome's previously unchallenged domination of the anti-herpes market there.

Zovirax is the world's fourth-largest-selling prescription drug, with annual global sales of about \$1.2 billion. It accounts for more than a third of Wellcome's revenue.

Wellcome's shares rallied on news of the lawsuit, gaining 15 percent to 721. SmithKline dipped 1 to 446.

The reaction was somewhat muted, reflecting pharmaceutical analysts' as to why Wellcome had waited so long to launch its challenge. A spokesman said it had decided to wait until Famvir was launched because "that, in our view, was the infringing activity."

(Bloomberg, Reuters)

Charges Cut W. H. Smith Profit by 27%

Compiled by Our Staff From Dispatches

LONDON — W.H. Smith Group PLC said Wednesday that one-time charges for job cuts and restructuring helped slash tax profit nearly 27 percent in the year ended May 28.

The book, newspaper, music and hardware retailer said it earned \$33.4 million (\$130 million) in the year on sales of \$2.44 billion, up 5.6 percent.

The company took a charge of \$36.6 million for the sale of 40 of its jointly owned Do It All home improvement stores and of \$6 million for restructuring in its W.H. Smith Retail division. The results also included a profit of \$1.2 million for the sale of property.

(Bloomberg, Reuters)

PTT Nederland Profit Rises Strong Post Division and Cost Cuts Pay Off

Compiled by Our Staff From Dispatches

AMSTERDAM — Royal PTT Nederland NV said Wednesday its first-half profit jumped 16 percent because of the use of Famvir in the United States and seeking unspecified damages.

The Dutch postal and telecommunications company earned a net 1.02 billion guilders (\$390 million) in the first half, up from 875 million guilders in the 1993 first half.

Sales at PTT Post rose by 0.7 percent, to 2.33 billion guilders, helped partly by a higher volume of national and international mail.

Operating income in the

post division rose 26 percent, to 263 million guilders.

Sales at PTT Telecom rose 9.4 percent, to 6.164 billion guilders, with more than half of the increase coming from higher call volume and more subscriber lines.

Rate increases introduced on April 1, 1993, and April 1, 1994, also were reflected in the sales figures, the company said.

Revenue from international calls began to rise after stabilizing in 1993, despite reductions in charges to a number of countries, it said.

Operating profit in the telecom division rose 5 percent, to 1.5 million guilders.

"On the basis of the profit development over the first half of 1994, the board of directors expects the net result as compared with 1993

will show a significant increase," the company said.

The results exceeded analysts' expectations and helped send PTT's share price up to 51.30 guilders from 51.60.

"The results simply look very good," said Erik de Graaf, analyst with Kempen & Co., who had expected PTT to earn 975 million guilders in the postal division.

PTT said the moderate cost increases seen in the first half reflected a limited rise in labor costs and fewer absences through illness and higher efficiency.

It noted that depreciation expenses were lower in the first half compared with a year ago.

PTT said it would pay a first-half dividend of 80 Dutch cents a share.

(Bloomberg, Reuters, AFX)

One-Time Gain Lifts Hagemeyer Profit

Compiled by Our Staff From Dispatches

NAARDEN, Netherlands — Hagemeyer NV said Wednesday its first-half net profit almost tripled, thanks to a large one-time gain from the sale of its stake in a Singapore-based import venture for electronic goods.

The Dutch conglomerate, whose activities range from selling consumer goods in Europe and North America to importing cars in the Netherlands, also said it planned to increase its share capital by about 5 percent to raise money for expansion.

Hagemeyer, which is 50.2 percent owned by the Hong Kong-based real estate and communications company First Pacific Co., said

first-half earnings rose to 141 million guilders (\$82 million) from 50.6 million in the first half a year ago.

The income included a one-time gain of 80.9 million guilders from divesting its minority stake in a Singapore-based import venture for electronic goods produced by Matsushita.

Hagemeyer's sales rose to 2 billion guilders in the half from 1.64 billion guilders in the first half of 1993.

Also on Wednesday, Internatio-Müller NV said its first-half profit rose to 32.2 million guilders from 19.6 million in the 1993 first half.

(Bloomberg, AFX, Reuters)

WHIRLPOOL: Executive's Ample Portfolio Combines Purchasing and Technology

Compiled from Page 11
though compressors were important parts of refrigerators, a key Whirlpool product.

The sale for \$106 million to Embraco SA, a Brazilian compressor manufacturer in which Whirlpool has a minority interest, was announced in December. Mr. Kerber has since taken on responsibility for running Whirlpool's \$250 million microwave oven operations.

"It's a way to keep Ron in touch with reality rather than being out in the popes doing something theoretical," said William D. Marohn, Whirlpool's president and chief operating officer.

Behind such joking comments is the assessment shared by Mr. Kerber and other senior Whirlpool executives that

any chief technology officer without substantial line management tasks runs the risk of not being taken seriously.

One test of Mr. Kerber's influence will be how thoroughly Whirlpool takes to the procedures his group outlined for all product development, from refinement of existing products to new appliances. The goals include making sure that the biggest risks are taken early on, when the least money has been spent.

The new rules, which Whirlpool began using last winter, should prevent the kind of costly mistakes that delayed rollout of a new generation of washing machines in Mexico for more than a year.

In that case, Whirlpool conceded, sales and marketing executives were not forced to set priorities among the 24

models they wanted. Manufacturing engineers wasted time and money designing a more flexible plant instead of focusing on producing the most important models first in high volumes.

"There isn't anything in the new approach that wasn't being done somewhere in the company," said Daniel McNicholl, who helped design the new procedures after following Mr. Kerber from McDonnell Douglas Corp. "The problem is that no part of the company was doing it all."

One early indication that the technology management efforts are paying off: Whirlpool last year won a contest sponsored by a group of electric utilities to design a new energy-efficient refrigerator, opening the door to a reward of \$30 million if it can sell 300,000 of the units.

After receiving a doctorate from California Institute of Technology, Mr. Kerber taught at Michigan State University's College of Engineering.

In 1983 he joined the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency at the Pentagon. In 1985, he was promoted to oversee all Defense Department technology research programs totaling \$5.3 billion a year.

Mr. Kerber started at McDonnell when that company was disrupted by trouble in its commercial aviation business and by the first stages of consolidation in the defense industry as the Cold War wound down.

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when that company was disrupted by trouble in its commercial aviation business and by the first stages of consolidation in the defense industry as the Cold War wound down.

GE Bids For Control Of Lindner

Bloomberg Business News

BERLIN — General Electric Lighting GmbH stepped in Wednesday with a proposed takeover of Lindner Licht GmbH after Germany's antitrust watchdog agency rejected a takeover by a unit of Philips Electronics NV.

Heiner Bruhn, a spokesman for the Federal Cartel Office, confirmed that General Electric Lighting was seeking the merger.

He said it did not know when the cartel office would issue a decision on that proposal but said, "I suspect it won't take long."

General Electric Lighting's finance manager, Inge Boehm, said company policy precluded discussing or even confirming any proposal. "But certainly we have talked to Lindner in the past year," he said. "That's public."

Mr. Bruhn said the planned Philips purchase of a majority of closely held Lindner would give a "dominant market position" in the German light bulb industry to both Philips and Osram, the Siemens AG lighting subsidiary.

Harald Lubbert, head of the cartel office's department responsible for reviewing proposed takeovers, said General Electric Lighting and Lindner Licht each had about 6 percent to 7 percent of the market.

The cartel office said Philips and Osram together already had a nearly 80 percent share of the light bulb market.

Lindner Licht has sales of about 30 million Deutsche marks (\$19 million).

Osram's market share is twice that of Philips, but competition between the two companies is still "considerably limited," the cartel office said.

Investor's Europe	
Frankfurt	London
DAX	FTSE 100 Index
1994 A.M. J.J.A.	1994 A.M. J.J.A.
1994	1994
Exchange	Index
Wednesday	Close
Close	% Change
Amsterdam	AEX
Stock Index	Stock Index
7,555.15	7,544.34
2,128.37	2,107.87
604.52	708.34
1,886.99	1,883.48
2,507.80	2,489.80
3,205.20	3,175.10
305.92	301.47
1,094.5	1,091.1
2,006.29	2,000.63
1,292.35	1,257.02
455.39	453.29
911.07	907.06

Sources: Reuters, AFP

International Herald Tribune

Very briefly:

• Georg Fischer AG, a Swiss automotive products and machinery group, said economic recovery in Europe helped it post a first-half profit of 31 million Swiss francs (\$24 million), following a 33 million franc loss last year.

• Stora Kopparbergs Bergslags AB, a Swedish forestry group, said it was raising its pulp prices as much as 13 percent to \$700 a ton Oct. 1 after posting a first-half pretax profit of 1.51 billion Swedish krona (\$199 million).

• Advanced Micro Devices Inc. plans to invest 2 billion Deutsche marks (\$1 billion) to build a factory in Dresden, Germany, a spokesman from the Saxony regional Economics Ministry said.

• Nordbanken AB, the state-owned Swedish bank, posted a first-half operating profit of 2.5 billion Swedish krona, up 47 percent from a year ago, on lower bad-debt charges.

• Volkswagen AG said it would supply the Daimler-Benz AG unit Mercedes-Benz AG with an adapted six-cylinder engine with automatic transmission for the new Mercedes limousine, in a contract worth an estimated 50 million DM a year.

• Ontekummo Oy of Finland said it sold its unit Candor Sweden AB to Rödöns AB, which was established for management buyout purposes, as the mining and metals concern focuses on its core business.

European Sales Lift Atlas Copco Profit

Compiled by Our Staff From Dispatches

er" than for 1993, when the company earned 1.32 billion krona.

Sales rose to 10.01 billion krona in the first half from 8.93 billion a year earlier. During the period, orders increased by 14 percent.

A favorable trend in demand was noted in most European markets, the company said.

Atlas Copco said earnings in 1994 before a capital gain from the sale of Atlas Copco Automation were expected to be "considerably high-

er" than for 1993, when the company earned 1.32 billion krona.

Sales rose to 10.01 billion krona in the first period, orders increased by 14 percent.

A favorable trend in demand was noted in most European markets, the company said.

During the second quarter, there was also an increase in orders in the German and Italian markets.

The company said it expected this demand to continue.

(Bloomberg, AFX)

RUSSIA: Capitalism's Rocky Road

Continued from Page 1

workers at what they know, after a lifetime of dependency at the prospect of doing anything else. They will not consider even selling their spare parts and turnips for extra cash.

"Engage in trade?" Mrs. Razzhivina said, truly shocked. "I could never do that."

Her attitude is not uncommon in a country where until recently all private commerce was known as "speculation" and was illegal.

But there are exceptions. Nikolai Komarov, 32, lost his job as an engineering instructor at the plant two years ago. But as the head of the construction unit of the local Young Communist League he had connections and capital to start up his own construction company.

He then opened a hardware store, and their second. Now he employs 15 people, but makes most of his money running a wholesale construction materials business. He is building his own six-room house, and his only complaint is about high taxes.

At least under communism there was always somebody you could complain to," Mr. Komarov said quietly. "Now nobody seems to be responsible."

He and his wife look more stunned than angry as they stare at the prospect of real property for the first time. Hard

luck, they say. He then opened a hardware store, and their second. Now he employs 15 people, but makes most of his money running a wholesale construction materials business. He is building his own six-room house, and his only complaint is about high taxes.

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He and his wife look more stunned than angry as they stare at the prospect of real property for the first time. Hard

NASDAQ

Wednesday's 4 p.m.
This list compiled by the AP, consists of the 1,000 most traded securities in terms of dollar value. It is updated twice a year.

12 Month High Low Stock				Div	Yld	PE	Sc 100s	High	Low	Last	Chg
A											
18% 6 AAON s	—	19	1154	13%	13%	1292	12%	1290	12%	1286	-16
20% 12 ABC Rgn	—	—	69	19%	19%	19%	19%	19%	19%	19%	+15
30% 12 ABC Rgn	—	—	10	1788	15%	14%	15%	15%	15%	15%	+17
26% 12 ABC Rgn	—	—	11	1591	15%	14%	15%	15%	15%	15%	+17
24% 8% ABC En t	.12s	8	—	—	—	12%	12%	12%	12%	12%	+16
47% 30% ABC Tc	—	—	36	419	15%	14%	14%	14%	14%	14%	+16
47% 21% ADC Tel	—	—	34	2978	4%	4%	4%	4%	4%	4%	+16
17% 10% AEC Chin	—	—	226	22	11	11	11	11	11	11	+16
23% 14% AEC Scs	.48s	4.1	—	226	12	11	11	11	11	11	+16
31% 19% AEC Steel	—	—	395	15	15%	15%	15%	15%	15%	15%	+16
25% 15% AEC Hld	—	—	11	432	24%	24%	24%	24%	24%	24%	+16
15% 6% AFS	—	—	—	—	—	13	13	13	13	13	+16
33% 13% AST	—	—	13	3504	4	13	13	13	13	13	+16
31% 14% AveryH	—	—	32	2044	15%	15%	15%	15%	15%	15%	+16
31% 13% Acclaim	—	—	51	8500	19%	19%	19%	19%	19%	19%	+16
26% 13% AcmeMet	—	—	10	1212	25	24%	24%	24%	24%	24%	+16
24% 7% AcmeTel	—	—	29	6030	9%	9%	9%	9%	9%	9%	+16
14% 13% Adcel	—	—	17	559	26%	26%	26%	26%	26%	26%	+16
22% 13% Adcel &	.48	7.4	7	340	26%	26%	26%	26%	26%	26%	+16
26% 10% Adcel &	—	—	5	15	25%	25%	25%	25%	25%	25%	+16
37% 26% Adco	.16	20	4	27	61	29%	29%	29%	29%	29%	+16
34% 14% AdcoSv	—	—	—	—	—	5%	5%	5%	5%	5%	+16
12% 4% AdvoPro	—	—	—	—	—	15%	15%	15%	15%	15%	+16
11% 4% AdvoTess	—	—	—	—	—	15%	15%	15%	15%	15%	+16
46% 26% AdvoTess	.29	5	5	14	14	14	14	14	14	14	+16
38% 25% AdvoTess	.29	5	5	14	14	14	14	14	14	14	+16
16% 25% AdvoCo	.10s	5	5	14	14	14	14	14	14	14	+16
13% 8% AdvoTess	—	—	—	—	—	12%	12%	12%	12%	12%	+16
43% 45% AdvoCo	—	—	1.74s	27	—	—	—	—	—	—	+16
31% 9% AdvoCo	—	—	—	—	—	14%	14%	14%	14%	14%	+16
22% 17% Albrook	.40	16	13	192	25%	25%	25%	25%	25%	25%	+16
19% 11% Albrook s	—	—	—	—	—	12%	12%	12%	12%	12%	+16
34% 75% Albus	—	—	27	1791	31%	31%	31%	31%	31%	31%	+16
25% 23% AlbusBld	.88	3.5	17	621	33%	33%	33%	33%	33%	33%	+16
19% 6% AlbusR	—	—	16	1751	16%	16%	16%	16%	16%	16%	+16
37% 19% AlbusSc	—	—	16	1751	16%	16%	16%	16%	16%	16%	+16
15% 10% AlbusT	—	—	16	2154	15%	15%	15%	15%	15%	15%	+16
15% 7% AlbusT	—	—	16	2154	15%	15%	15%	15%	15%	15%	+16
22% 20% AlbusSc	.40	2.1	7	204	26%	26%	26%	26%	26%	26%	+16
22% 13% Albus-Add	—	—	7	204	26%	26%	26%	26%	26%	26%	+16
24% 1% Alcohol	—	—	—	—	—	9%	9%	9%	9%	9%	+16
35% 7% AlcoholBld	—	—	918	12	12	12	12	12	12	12	+16
39% 21% Albero	—	—	26	7669	26%	26%	26%	26%	26%	26%	+16
24% 10% Alberon	.01s	18	13	419	16%	16%	16%	16%	16%	16%	+16
72% 40% Alberon	—	—	13	749	24%	24%	24%	24%	24%	24%	+16
19% 12% AlcineVov	.16	15	9	128	17%	17%	17%	17%	17%	17%	+16
20% 10% AlcineVov	.16	15	9	128	17%	17%	17%	17%	17%	17%	+16
24% 10% AlcineGold	.24	1.8	9	128	17%	17%	17%	17%	17%	17%	+16
24% 14% AlcineFront	.24	1.8	9	128	17%	17%	17%	17%	17%	17%	+16
24% 25% AlcineGree	.5s	5	19	31	1034	24%	24%	24%	24%	24%	+16
27% 17% AlcineHc	—	—	21	3411	21%	21%	21%	21%	21%	21%	+16
15% 7% AlcineHc	—	—	21	3411	21%	21%	21%	21%	21%	21%	+16
15% 5% Almede	—	—	14	972	16%	16%	16%	16%	16%	16%	+16
22% 12% AlmedeBld	—	—	14	222	19%	19%	19%	19%	19%	19%	+16
20% 11% AlmedeSc	—	—	14	222	19%	19%	19%	19%	19%	19%	+16
10% 4% AlmedeT	—	—	14	222	19%	19%	19%	19%	19%	19%	+16
42% 14% AlmedeSc	.48	1.5	21	2047	21%	21%	21%	21%	21%	21%	+16
18% 11% AlmedeT	.48	1.5	21	2047	21%	21%	21%	21%	21%	21%	+16
18% 10% AlmedeSc	.08	1.4	14	2047	21%	21%	21%	21%	21%	21%	+16
15% 11% AlmedeT	.08	1.4	14	2047	21%	21%	21%	21%	21%	21%	+16
16% 11% AlmedeBld	—	—	18	2602	19%	19%	19%	19%	19%	19%	+16
17% 18% AlmedeHc	—	—	18	2602	19%	19%	19%	19%	19%	19%	+16
17% 19% AndrewF	.10s	10	243	16%	16%	16%	16%	16%	16%	16%	+16
31% 14% Andres	—	—	20	2047	21%	21%	21%	21%	21%	21%	+16
22% 14% Antec	—	—	21	2047	21%	21%	21%	21%	21%	21%	+16
22% 14% Antec	.48	1.5	21	2047	21%	21%	21%	21%	21%	21%	+16
22% 11% AntecBld	.82	3.5	21	2038	16%	16%	16%	16%	16%	16%	+16
25% 11% AntecBld	.82	3.5	21	2038	16%	16%	16%	16%	16%	16%	+16
32% 12% AntecDell	.84	3.5	25	1694	17%	17%	17%	17%	17%	17%	+16
31% 18% AntecDell	.84	3.5	25	1694	17%	17%	17%	17%	17%	17%	+16
31% 18% AntecDell	.84	3.5	25	1694	17%	17%	17%	17%	17%	17%	+16
19% 12% AntecDell	.84	3.5	25	1694	17%	17%	17%	17%	17%	17%	+16
19% 12% AntecDell	.84	3.5	25	1694	17%	17%	17%	17%	17%	17%	+16
44% 22% AntecDma	1.1s	1.9	9	365	30%	30%	30%	30%	30%	30%	+16
34% 12% AntecHc	—	—	96	2525	17%	17%	17%	17%	17%	17%	+16
15% 0% ArktBest	.04	3	20	251	12%	12%	12%	12%	12%	12%	+16
22% 15% Armor	.44	2.5	19	11	11	11	11	11	11	11	+16
22% 15% Armor	.44	2.5	19	11	11	11	11	11	11	11	+16
24% 15% Armor	.44	2.5	19	11	11	11	11	11	11	11	+16
24% 15% Armor	.44	2.5	19	11	11	11	11	11	11	11	+16
13% 7% Ascherm	—	—	21	11616	10%	10%	10%	10%	10%	10%	+16
40% 24% AspetCTI	.44	2.6	20	2013	30%	30%	30%	30%	30%	30%	+16
44% 22% AspetCma	—	—	100	130	24	25%	25%	25%	25%	25%	+16
33% 21% AspetCmb	—	—	11	18	208	14%	14%	14%	14%	14%	+16
20% 14% AspetCsc	—	—	18	788	34%	34%	34%	34%	34%	34%	+16
27% 21% AspetCsc	—	—	18	2203	24%	24%	24%	24%	24%	24%	+16
38% 21% AspetCsc	.44	2.6	22	6205	26%	26%	26%	26%	26%	26%	+16
29% 11% Atmel	—	—	22	224	17%	17%	17%	17%	17%	17%	+16
24% 15% Atmel	—	—	22	224	17%	17%	17%	17%	17%	17%	+16
9% 4% AutoSy	.49s	4.9	15	4150	5%	5%	5%	5%	5%	5%	+16
12% 3% Autorex	.48	3.8	22	2220	5%	5%	5%	5%	5%	5%	+16
61% 37% Autotek	.48	3.8	48	4505	18%	18%	18%	18%	18%	18%	+16
29% 13% Autotek	—	—	23	2471	23%	23%	23%	23%	23%	23%	+16
24% 15% Autotek	—	—	23	2471	23%	23%	23%	23%	23%	23%	+16

AMEX

Wednesday's Closing
Tables include the nation's closing prices up to the closing on Wall Street and do not reflect

Series figures are unofficial. Yearly highs and lows reflect the previous 52 weeks plus the current week, but not the latest trading day. Where a split or stock dividend amounts to 25 percent or more has been paid, the year's high-low range and dividend are shown for the new stock only. Unless otherwise noted, rates of dividends are annual disbursements based on the latest declaration.

a—dividend also declared.
b—annual rate of dividend plus stock dividend.

+ 1/2 c - ~~Residual dividend plus stock dividend.~~
 - 1/2 c - called.
 - 1/2 d - new yearly low.
 + 1/2 e - dividend declared or paid in spreading 12 months.
 - 1/2 f - dividend in Canadian funds, subject to 16% non-residence tax.
 + 1/2 g - dividend declared after split-up or stock dividend.
 - 1/2 h - dividend paid this year, omitted, deferred, or no action taken on latest dividend.

+44 - date of latest dividend meeting.
k - dividend declared or paid this year, an accumulation
issue with dividends in arrears.
n - new issue in the last 52 weeks. The high-low range begins
with the start of trading.
nd - next day delivery.

— next day delivery.
P/E — price-earnings ratio.
r — dividend declared or paid in preceding 72 months, plus
stock dividend.
s — stock split. Dividend begins with date of split.
st — strike.

— sales.
— dividend paid in stock in preceding 12 months—estimated
cash value on ex-dividend or ex-distribution date.
— new yearly high.
— trading halted.

— *if being named,
vi — In bankruptcy or receivership or being reorganized under the Bankruptcy Act, or securities assumed by such companies,
and — when distributed.
vi — when formed.*

— When Issued.
— with warrants.
— ex-dividend or ex-rights.
— ex-distribution.

Surging Inflation in China Spurs Release of Food Stocks

Compiled by Our Staff From Dispatches

BEIJING — The Chinese government on Wednesday ordered authorities in the country's biggest cities to release reserves of meat, sugar and vegetables in a bid to halt soaring food prices.

Simultaneously, Beijing introduced de facto price controls on a range of vegetables and threatened to investigate anyone charging more than 10 percent above an official "reference price," official newspapers reported Wednesday.

Retail inflation in 35 major cities in July stood at an annualized 24.2 percent, the State Statistical Bureau said Wednesday. The price of food for city dwellers

rose 31.9 percent over July last year, with grain prices jumping 57.8 percent and vegetables 29.7 percent, the report said.

The inflation data prompted the government's new measures to try to reign in prices.

China's leaders, who five years ago used the army to crush pro-democracy demonstrations that were sparked in part by anger at inflation and corruption, are fearful of prices again setting off unrest.

One of the items singled out in the government's new order and one of the staples of the Chinese diet, was 48.6 percent above an official "reference price," official newspapers reported Wednesday.

Retail inflation in 35 major cities in July stood at an annualized 24.2 percent, the State Statistical Bureau said Wednesday.

The price of food for city dwellers

rose 31.9 percent over July last year, with grain prices jumping 57.8 percent and vegetables 29.7 percent, the report said.

The inflation data prompted the government's new measures to try to reign in prices.

Official papers said Beijing authorities would release 20 million kilograms of meat onto the market from now until the first half of October and would ensure that there was at least 2.5 million kilograms of vegetables in the city's markets each day.

On Monday, Beijing started publishing vegetable prices based on a survey of the city's five wholesale markets. The published prices are to serve as a "reference" for retailers, and those charging more than 10 percent over the reference price will be punished, the government said.

So far, there has been no panic buying and no sign of public protests.

But the State Statistical Bureau warned that rising inflation threatened the country's economic reform program.

"Major problems exist in the economic performance at present," it said. "The task of controlling the price is still arduous."

Complicating the fight against inflation is the fact that money has started pouring back into construction projects, threatening to push the economy once again to the brink of overheating.

In July, state enterprises invested 72.9 percent more in fixed investment projects than a year earlier, itself a major pre-ord for construction.

But the State Statistical Bureau said the economy was still in the "yellow light area."

The overall situation is still in the normal area; however, there are some unstable factors which need careful regulation and control," it said.

(Bloomberg, Reuters)

Obsolescent Textile Mills To Be Eliminated by China

The Associated Press

BEIJING — China will eliminate 10 million obsolescent cotton spindles — roughly one-fourth of its total — in the near future, Wang Zhongyi, minister of the State Economic and Trade Commission, told a conference in Beijing.

He said the move was intended to combat quality problems in the textile industry and a glut in cotton supply. The restructuring would sharply cut cotton output.

Stockpiles of low-quality textile products must be reduced, the People's Daily on Wednesday quoted Mr. Wang as saying.

China's textile industry has been plagued with overproduction since 1991. Nearly 1 million obsolescent spindles were eliminated during the 1992-93 production year, the official Xinhua News Agency reported.

China's producers of export goods, however, face serious problems not only in outmoded equipment but in obtaining needed supplies of high-grade cotton. Insect infestations have decimated crops in the past two years, and hoarding by officials has compounded the problem.

To protect the huge state textile industry, China maintains a subsidized quota system on cotton. Such pricing encourages state cotton barons, most of them Communist Party bureaucrats, to under-report the weight of cotton purchased from farmers, creating an off-the-books surplus that can be sold at higher prices.

Thai Commercial Rates Edge Down

Bloomberg Business News

BANGKOK — Commercial banks have reduced some deposit rates after a central bank warning that too much "hot money" is flowing into the country.

The Bank of Thailand says it's worried that rapid inflows, lured by high interest rates, could be followed by just-as-rapid outflows that would leave banks with loan portfolios too large for their deposit bases.

Although analysts differ over how much effect this "hot money" is having on Bangkok's stock-market boom, stock investors also appear edgy that the flow might dry up.

Hot money describes funds shifted quickly from country to country in search of high rates. Institutional investors from the United States and Asia's finan-

cial capitals have been attracted to Thailand, where nonresident fixed deposit accounts in baht have been paying more than 9 percent in annual interest rates.

But last week the Bank of Thailand said enough was enough and commercial banks have begun reducing their rates.

Bangkok Bank, this week dropped its rate on three-month nonresident baht accounts by about 1 percentage point, to 7 percent. Siam Commercial Bank is paying 8 percent, down half a percentage point.

That compares with 4.875 percent offered on both three-month Eurodollar and Eurodeposit markets. Further, there's little currency risk for dollar-based investors in Thai deposits, because the baht is pegged to a dollar-led basket of currencies.

But what it doesn't need is foreign money that will be yanked once the account matures, Mr. Sirichai said.

"We don't leave that money sitting there; it's lent out," he said. "If a lot of deposits are hot money, it creates a mismatch between deposits and loans."

The central bank is not worried about the current inflow on a macroeconomic basis, said Pisit Leelathathan, chief spokesman for the Bank of Thailand.

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Established in 1990, Dewan Salman is the biggest polyester producer in Pakistan, with a capacity of 56,500 metric tons a year, its chief executive, Dewan Zia Rehman Farooqi, said.

The Eurobond issue will finance a new unit that will almost double capacity, to 108,500 metric tons a year, he said.

Dewan's plans have shaken its competitors because higher production could force down prices.

Whatever its final shape, most Indians agree improvements at Doordarshan, along with the new airlines formed to challenge Indian Airlines, a domestic monopoly with a woeful record for everything, are highlighting the consumer benefits of India's economic liberalization.

But Mr. Farooqi remained confident of his company's future.

Dewan recorded an after-tax profit of 300.6 million rupees (\$10 million) on net sales of 1.7 billion rupees in 1992-93.

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Dewan recorded an after-tax profit of 300.6 million rupees (\$10 million) on net sales of 1.7

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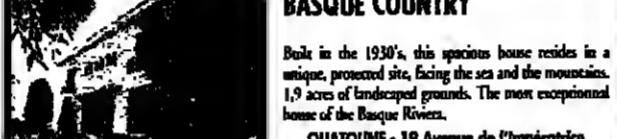
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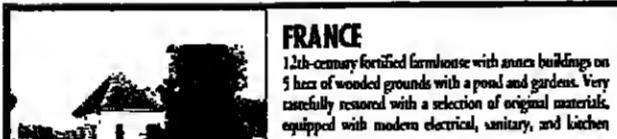
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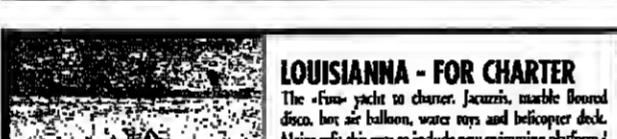
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SPORTS

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Denise Lewis, winner of the gold medal in the heptathlon.

SIDELINES

China Bans Swimmer for Drugs

BEIJING (AP) — A Chinese woman swimmer tested positive for drug use and has been banned from competition for two years and stripped of her three Goodwill Games gold medals, the Xinhua news agency reported Wednesday.

Ren Xin was one of three Chinese swimmers tested at the Goodwill Games in Russia. The results showed a higher-than-normal ratio of testosterone and epitestosterone in her urine, the report said.

Paralympics Sues USOC Over Mascot

ATLANTA (NYT) — Organizers of an Olympic-style competition for disabled athletes have sued the U.S. Olympic Committee in federal court, contending that the USOC is improperly attempting to claim royalties from the disabled athletes' mascot.

G. Andrew Fleming, president and chief executive officer of the Paralympic organizing committee, said the USOC had refused to approve any Paralympic marketing plans until it was given assurances it would derive royalties from Blaze.

For the Record

Romário, the Brazilian World Cup star, was fined 10 million pescetas (\$78,000) on Wednesday after delaying his return to the Spanish soccer champion, Barcelona. (Reuters)

The AC Milan defender Mauro Tassotti, 34, had his appeal of an eight-match international ban rejected by FIFA on Wednesday, which almost certainly means the end of his international career.

Marco Leinenius is expected to announce next week that he's taking a one-year paid sabbatical from the Pittsburgh Penguins because of an anemic blood condition that was triggered by radiation treatments he received for Hodgkin's disease. (AP)

North Korea has informed countries expected to participate in next year's East Asia Games that it will not be able to host the event because of instability on the peninsula, according to Japan's Kyodo News Service.

The NASCAR driver Ernie Irvan has begun to show signs of consciousness although he remains in critical condition and on life-support systems after a crash, his doctors say. (Reuters)

Fred LeBow, the founder of the New York City Marathon who has brain cancer, was inducted into the National Track and Field Hall of Fame in a ceremony in Manhattan; the other 10 members will be inducted in December in St. Louis. (NYT)

The Associated Press

VICTORIA, British Columbia — Linford Christie's quick visit to the Commonwealth Games was just about everything the event's promoters hoped it would be.

The biggest name in the Games, the man whose picture was featured in much of the advance publicity, spent about 40 seconds running in four races over two days. And, as all good showmen do, he saved his best for last.

The Englishman won his second Commonwealth Games gold medal in the 100 meters on Tuesday in 9.91 seconds, matching the sixth-fastest time in history.

At 34, when many sprinters would be past their prime, he is at the top of his sport, a world champion and Olympic gold medalist. Still, he keeps running and winning.

"Age is in the mind," he said. "Every day they keep telling me I'm old but I'm still going out here and mixing it with the young ones and beating them all the time."

Christie overshadowed a remarkable performance by the unheralded Horace Dove-Edwin of Sierra Leone, who stunned a world-class field by winning the silver medal in 10.02 seconds. Dove-Edwin, a student at LaGrange College in Atlanta, hopes to compete in that city's Olympics in 1996.

While Christie dominated the track, an issue familiar to international competitions surfaced — drug testing.

The English shot putter Paul Edwards, in a Victoria hospital for treatment of an obstructed bowel, said he had been told that there was "a problem" with his drug test in the recent European Championships.

England's team manager, Alan Lindop, would say only that an English male athlete had failed a drug test at Helsinki. Edwards said, though, that he had "had no confirmation of a failed drug test, but I have been told by Mr. Lindop that there was a problem with my test in 4/7.89, also a Games record."

The weight-lifter Marcus Stephen of the Pacific island of Nauru won all three gold medals in the 59-kilogram class. He won a gold and two silvers four years ago.

Commonwealth Games officials said they would take no action against Edwards unless the international federation did so. The shot put event is scheduled for Saturday, but it is not known whether Edwards will be healthy enough to compete.

The world champion Colin Jackson, running for Wales, repeated as men's 3,000-meter champion before his hometown crowd and broke her Games record by more than six seconds, winning in 8:32.17.

Other gold medalists were Mary Onyali of Nigeria in the women's 100, Catherine Freeman of Australia in the women's 400, Daniela Costian of Australia in the women's discus, Denise Lewis in England in the heptathlon and the Kenyans Charles Gitonga at 400 meters and Johnstone Kipkoech in the 3,000.

England won two swimming golds when Martin Harris upset Australia's Steven Dewick in the men's 100 backstroke and Mark Foster edged Aussie Darren Lange in the 50-meter freestyle.

Danyon Loader, who had won three silver medals in the earlier competition, gave New Zealand its first swimming gold by touching the wall 16.5-burdens of a second ahead of Australia's Scott Miller in the men's 200 butterfly.

Australia's Eli Overton, the winner Friday in the 400-meter individual medley, won the 200-meter individual medley for her second gold in a Games record 2:15.39. Australia went 1-2 in the women's 800 freestyle with Stacey Gartrell taking the gold and Hayley Lewis the silver. And the Aussie women easily won the 400 medley relay in 4:07.89, also a Games record.

The weight-lifter Marcus Stephen of the Pacific island of Nauru won all three gold medals in the 59-kilogram class. He won a gold and two silvers four years ago.



Miroslav Kadlec of Kaiserslautern, left, and Jan Furtok of Frankfurt during their 1-1 draw in the German first division. Arne Dedert/Reuters

Maradona Banned for 15 Months

Sept. 29, 1995, and Maradona will be 34 and 11 months when it expires.

The Argentine captain, who graced his country's team by leading it to World Cup glory in 1986, but who has since been caught twice using drugs, had been due to play a record 22nd game in the World Cup finals on the day he was suspended.

Maradona, who tested positive for five stimulants after a first-round match against Nigeria on June 25, was also fined \$15,000.

The Argentine Football Association was given a caution, and Daniele Serini, a medical consultant with the team at the World Cup who was held partly responsible for Maradona's positive test, received the same punishment as the player.

The suspension is the same as the one Maradona received for testing positive for cocaine in Italy in 1991, and probably means the end of the 33-year-old's playing career. The ban runs from June 30, 1994, to

Cup finals, in 1998, it would draw up a framework of sanctions for using drugs.

"At the moment we have a wide range of possible sanctions, but we need more certainty in future," Tognoni said. "We know we should be more precise next time."

Maradona was withdrawn from the World Cup by the Argentine federation before FIFA could decide what punishment to hand down after he tested positive for ephedrine, a banned stimulant found in many over-the-counter medicines, and four related drugs.

Maradona denied any wrongdoing at the time in the United States, but both samples taken from the player tested positive.

A FIFA spokesman said that no new evidence had been offered to the committee on Wednesday and that Maradona's lawyer claimed there had been a mix-up between two similarly named products.

SCOREBOARD

Japanese Leagues

Central League				
Team	W	L	T	Pct.
Yomiuri	42	43	0	.500
Marine	32	52	0	.393
Chiba	32	52	0	.393
Hiroshima	31	53	0	.400
Yokohama	44	53	0	.453
Yokohama	44	54	0	.449

Wednesday's Results

Central League				
Team	W	L	T	Pct.
Yomiuri	57	45	0	.570
Marine	57	45	0	.570
Chiba	56	45	0	.554
Hiroshima	57	47	1	.541
Yokohama	41	62	1	.376
Yokohama	39	62	4	.380

Pacific League				
Team	W	L	T	Pct.
SoftBank	57	45	0	.570
Oris	57	45	0	.570
Kintetsu	56	45	0	.554
Datei	57	47	1	.541
Yomiuri	41	62	1	.376
Yomiuri	39	62	4	.380

Commonwealth Games

SWIMMING				
Event	1	2	3	4
200 butterfly	1. Darren Leader, New Zealand	2. Scott Miller, Australia	3. Mark Foster, England	4. Peter Williams, Australia
200 medley	1. Peter Williams, Australia	2. Darren Leader, New Zealand	3. Scott Miller, Australia	4. Mark Foster, England
100 butterfly	1. Darren Leader, New Zealand	2. Scott Miller, Australia	3. Mark Foster, England	4. Peter Williams, Australia
100 medley	1. Darren Leader, New Zealand	2. Scott Miller, Australia	3. Mark Foster, England	4. Peter Williams, Australia
100 butterfly	1. Darren Leader, New Zealand	2. Scott Miller, Australia	3. Mark Foster, England	4. Peter Williams, Australia
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SPORTS

L.A. Kings' McNall Expected to Enter Guilty Plea in Fraud

By James Bates
and Lisa Dillman
Los Angeles Times Service

McNall remains a minority partner in the team.

LOS ANGELES — Bruce P. McNall, the president of the Los Angeles Kings and the sports entrepreneur credited with turning Southern California on to professional ice hockey, has agreed to plead guilty to four criminal counts stemming from a federal bank fraud investigation, sources close to the case have confirmed.

McNall, hailed as recently as a year ago as one of the most successful and innovative American sports executives, has signed a draft agreement negotiated by his lawyers and federal prosecutors.

That agreement calls for guilty pleas to one count of bank fraud, two counts of mail fraud and one count of conspiracy, the sources said. A federal grand jury has been investigating McNall for allegedly falsifying loan documents.

Sources with knowledge of the agreement said probation was unlikely, adding that under federal sentencing guidelines and the current plea, McNall probably would face a maximum prison sentence of six to nine years. That sentencing could be lowered.

McNall has been making no public statements on his situation. Authorities at the U.S. Attorney's Office have declined to comment.

McNall would most likely enter a formal plea no earlier than mid-September, with sentencing coming sometime next year, the sources said. For the moment, McNall has no plans to leave his post as Kings' president they said.

McNall, 44, was sole owner of the Kings from 1988 until May, when he was forced to sell a 72 percent interest in the team to the investors Jeffrey Sankoff and Joseph Cohen because of severe financial problems that eventually led to his filing for protection from creditors in U.S. Bankruptcy Court.



Donald Fehr, players' union chief, left, and Richard Ravitch, owners' representative, taping the "Larry King Live" show.

U.S. Soccer Star, Cut by Jets, Will Keep on Trying

By Gerald Eskenazi
New York Times Service

HEMPSTEAD, New York — They gave Tony Meola a dozen footballs, a kicking tee and told him to go home and practice. And maybe, the Jets told him, he can return soon.

The Jets were encouraging to Meola, who tried to live out his fantasy of switching from World Cup soccer goalie to National Football League kicker.

Officially, Meola was cut Tuesday as the Jets pared their preseason roster to 60. He had not been consistent — either in booting the ball into the end zone or hanging it high on kickoffs. Then again, he had only been doing this for a few weeks.

There was never a question that Meola would unseat 38-year-old Nick Lowery, the most accurate kicker in history. There was the hope, though, that the 25-year-old Meola, with his powerful right leg, could kick the ball so deep that no one could return it.

"I'm not disappointed, that's for sure," said the pony-tailed Meola, who was going home to Kearny, New Jersey, with the supply of balls to practice kicking. "I'm going to try to be ready for next Wednesday. Pete said he's going to try to make a place for me on the practice squad."

Coach Pete Carroll suggested that after more practice, Meola could be signed to the 53-man roster, of which 45 suit up for games. There is also the five-man practice squad, which is where Meola is apparently headed with the regular season starting on Sept. 4.

Carroll said there was no reason to use Meola in the final preseason game against Tampa Bay on Friday night.

"Not in a week's time," he said. "He wouldn't make that much progress that fast."

While Meola hauled away his gear, Lowery went through his obsessive routine of stretching and jogging.

Thirty minutes after the others had

left the practice field, Lowery finished his workout. Then he explained how difficult it was for Meola, a fine athlete, to make it as a big-league kicker so soon.

"He made great progress," said Lowery. "But he had 35 variables in his kicking motion the first week, knocked it down to 20, then 10 and now it's at 4. Things like pointing his right foot, or not leaning over too much."

Still, Lowery believes that Meola "made the fastest progress of any kicker I've ever seen."

Yet, with all that progress, Meola is probably at the stage of being an outstanding college kicker — but not good enough for the big time. He had not done so much football kicking since he was a 12-year-old playing in the Pop Warner League.

When he impressed the Jets last month in a workout that led to his signing, he was drilling a high percentage of kicks into the end zone from 70 yards away. This would be the perfect comple-

ment to Lowery, with the new kicking rules that lowered the tee and required a kickoff from the 30-yard line.

But Meola's kickoffs too often hang only 3.3 seconds instead of the league average of 3.9.

And his distance and height suffered as his form improved. Early in camp, Lowery warned Meola that he might lose two to five yards in distance by changing techniques, but that eventually he would be a better kicker.

Meola, meanwhile, will continue to point toward the new Major Soccer League, which is scheduled to begin next spring.

"You know, I said from the beginning that I hoped to make the practice squad," Meola said. "I also haven't given up on soccer."

Lowery himself was cut by the Jets 16 years ago. He has spoken to Meola about overcoming these unkind cuts. Meola is still two years away, Lowery said.

CROSSWORD

ACROSS
1 Jam maker
4 Borders
8 Mounds of arms
14 Facsimile
15 Tour follower

16 Occupy
17 Treadmill
18 They may try
you
19 RR depot

21 Look up and
down
22 "No bid"
23 Curve between
musical notes
24 "Agus —"
27 Crustacean
catcher
28 Before
30 Scopes Trial
defender
33 Fit into the
schedule
34 Coal container
35 Razor-billed
bird
36 Reindeer
relative
40 Use this answer
42 Constellation
next to Scorpius
44 Membership for
30-Down?
45 Shipping letters
46 " — We a
"Rollin' Stone"
(1972 hit)
48 Pickle-uppers
51 Stories
52 Uses a knife
54 Sullivan Award
grp.
55 Sommeller's
challenge
56 "Temp Quarts"
57 pool
58 Temporary
59 Sprays,
perhaps
60 Rain, as plans
62 Negrito's
successor
63 Originally

64 Shooter
supporter

22 Took back
a Highest orbital
points
4 Get wider
5 Whopper
juniors
6 Henri's here
7 Dupe
8 Bathing suit top
9 A Bit
10 Takes to the
street edge
11 Uniform
attachment
12 Visualizes
13 Is increased
15 Comprehends
20 Drink opener
21 Resolve, as
cooperates
22 Corneal
23 Kid corals
25 City on the Loire
26 Base
27 Ring result
30 Where nautical
rope is wound
31 Uzbek lake
32 Duet
33 Entertainment
34 W.W. II craft
35 Masters
tournament
location
41 Freeloader
42 Crackpot
43 Certain code
carrier
47 Ruthless ruler
48 Book
containing
legends
51 Florentine
painter
52 Spot
53 "Star Trek"
55 Klingon
57 Finish'd
58 Youngster

